1996

IT'S *all* Connected

Legend

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Choir members from 28 states went to Washington D.C., in May to participate in "America Sings," a benefit that states its mission in its theme "To kids who have no hope, from kids with hope to share." Junior Brian Conger attended a practice in Washington D.C.

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IT'S *Well* Connected

No one student stood alone to create the entire success of this school. But when all students stood together they brought along with their achievements honor to the school itself. It was the school that had seen and heard it all. The school was the reason for the success of the Academic Team', the reason for the play, "Dracula," and the musical, "Godspell," and it was the reason for the winning seasons produced by the athletes. Many of these and other different clubs offered were all linked to the school in some way. This school was the link in the chain that brought us all together — that connected us. And it was when we were all connected that we exemplified a truly well-rounded school, the image of Portage High School.

Wearing his sunglasses and crown, junior Charlie Greer accepts his winning of prom prince with open arms. Greer was connected to the school with his being in football and baseball during his freshman, sophomore and junior years of school.

(Photo by Cheryl Banke)

During the Junior Miss Pageant in June, senior Jenny Siminski walks to the the podium to accept her award for one of four finalists. Siminski was involved with swimming and National Honor Society throughout her senior year.

While at the varsity boys' basketball Semi-State game against Lew Wallace, the varsity cheerleaders perform a routine in which senior Alicia Smith is hoisted to the top. The varsity cheerleading squad consisted mainly of juniors and seniors.

Social Connection

Seniors Eric Mason, Heather Smith and Tina Fingerhoot gather together for a small group picture at Camp Chile. The camp is in Colorado and is where student council members go for workshops and other helpful seminars. Student Council trips not only were educational, but provided those in attendance to gain many new friendships.

IT'S *Still* Connected

Senior Kaimi Blaha, Portage's 1995 Junior Miss, accepts with a smile the award given to her June 2. Many junior girls participated in the event, which even brought them closer together as friends.

Junior Pom Pon Megan Gerkin helps to decorate the Pep Club hallway for the homecoming festivities. The Pep Club not only held meetings and participated in events but also baked treats for all the sports teams.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Seniors Jessica Hufford, Stacey Smolnicky and Alan Washburn skate their way down Central Avenue tossing candy to the little kids during the Fall Homecoming parade. After the parade many students and their parents went to the pep rally.

Senior Valentine Torres, a Fall Homecoming Queen nominee, rides through the Fall Homecoming parade in Robert Ozbolt's car along with David Brubaker. Torres was announced queen during halftime of the game.

Juniors Cindy York, Wendy York and Joseph Durk decorate the S.A.D.D./S.T.O.P. wall. Different clubs designed a variety of walls throughout the building.

Members of the varsity football team relax before the Valparaiso game during the Fall Homecoming parade. The Indians defeated the Vikings, 42-14.

Catch the Spirit

Students in sparkling gowns, football uniforms, decorations throughout the halls, cheering for the home team, wearing concert shirts and decking on red and white on game day were all definate prospects that identified Fall Homecoming week.

The Fall Homecoming Queen nominees were seniors Tina Fingerhoot, Trisha Martin, Valentine Torres, Alicia Smith and Kelly Fallon. Homecoming Queen was decided through the student body and was announced during half-time. Mr. Football was senior Marty Costello and Fall Homecoming Queen was senior Valentine Torres.

Senior Lindsay Saviola said, "I feel that she was qualified for the position of Homecoming Queen, because she has a great personality and she doesn't let it go to her head."

The Indians played the Valparaiso Vikings. The Indians defeated the Vikings, 42-14.

The parade and pep rally brought screams and shouts from the senior, junior, sophomore and freshman classes along with a few male cheerleaders showing their dancing moves down the bleachers filled with the student body. The screams and shouts were used to measure which class had the most spirit. The sophomore class president, Fahad Javed was doused with whip cream, sprinkles and a cherry by the winning senior class president, Aaron Galindo for the initiation of student council.

Junior Korey Reynolds said, "I thought that the pep rally was a lot of fun and great for the football team, but also I think our school needs to recognize the boys cross country team because they have accomplished a lot also."

The parade and hall decorations had many competitors including classes and orginazations. The junior class won the hall and float competitions.

One more thing of Fall Homecoming was Spirit week. Spirit week was filled with days as clash day, class color day, band/concert day, pajama/slipper day and the traditional red and white day.

Freshman Deanna Zych said, "Pajama/Slipper day was my favorite because I got to feel like a freak."

Saviola said, "Pajama/Slipper day was fun because you could just roll out of bed, put some slippers on and got school. It was real comfortable.

By Stacy Lemley

Taking a break from school registration, freshman Laine Hillier, sophomores Holly Blake and Mary Brown, and seniors Heather Smith and Tina Fingerhoot spend some time away from work. Students in Student Council volunteered to spend their last few days of summer handing out schedules for the school year.

Basking in the warmth of the sun, senior Melissa Holland and Na Gress from Roxana, Ill., enjoy a moment on the beach. Many students flocked to the beach to catch some rays.

Smiling in the Sun

A small boy darts across a white sandy beach with a chocolate ice cream bar in his hand. The summer sun beats down on the boy as his ice cream melts on his face. The first traces of red begin to appear on his chubby cheeks from the mid-July heat.

A lot of students sought to take refuge among the sand and waves.

Junior Meaghan Husted said, "I went to the beach all the time this summer. I went with my friends because it was fun and I wanted to get a good tan."

Many students enjoyed spending their time with friends and family members.

"I met a lot of people and hung out with my older brother," sophomore Melissa Johnson said.

One complaint some students had was how much money they spent.

Junior Amanda Siroky said, "I went to the mall, the movies and out to Crown Point a lot. I would say I spent about $400 this summer."

Johnson said even though she spent a lot of money, she had fun in the process and it was worth it.

Many students had summer jobs to help fund for their activities.

Senior Andy Mann had jobs at both Burger King and County Seat. "My jobs were boring, tiring and time consuming. I could have gone to a lot of different places if I didn't have to work all the time," Mann said.

Material things compelled some students to take up jobs.

Both Mann and senior Christy Bilderback said the reason they took on the responsibilities of a job was to help pay for a car.

"I worked almost every day just to make money for a car, that's why I had two jobs," Mann said.

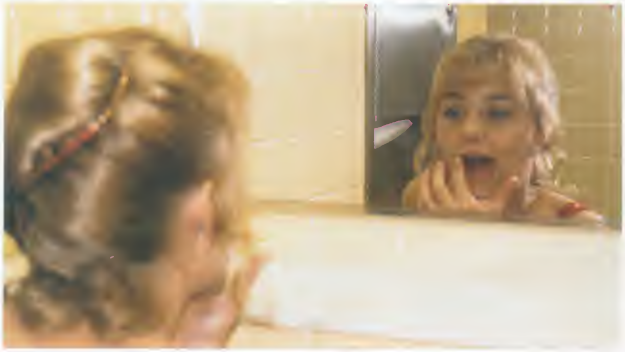
By Derinda Smith

Smiling proudly, senior Joel Alderson shows off his catch of the day. The fish won him first place in a fishing competition.

Sharing a moment at the National Association of Student Councils, senior Eric Mason and Merrillville Student Council President Jennifer Johnson got a chance to spend eight days together in Tulsa, Okla. During their stay they visited such places as Indian reservations, carnivals, parks, attended dances and got a chance to experience Oklahoma.

Senior Ian Pittman, junior Carlo Ernandez, and junior Ryan Bonner smile for the camera. The Christmas dance took place in the Commons area of the East building.

Sophomore Jill Finnerty fixes her lipstick in the bathroom mirror. Many students who attended the dance often visited the restroom to check makeup, hair or general appearance.



History teacher Mr. Ronald Hancock and his wife, Mrs. Hancock dance. Students weren't the only ones who danced at "Winter Dreams."

Dancing the Night Away

It's Saturday night, and students are dressing up in their best to go to school. Yes, school.

The "Winter Dreams" Christmas dance took place in the Commons, Dec. 16. The cost was $12 per couple. It was a "couples only" dance. The dress was semi formal, and students were dressed in all different styles and levels of formality.

Some students went out and bought their dresses or suits in advance. Sophomore Megan Nelson said, "I bought my dress a few months early."

Other students just got their clothes a week or two beforehand. Sophomore Ginger Lapine said "I just borrowed a dress from one of my friends."

Music Men DJ Service provided the music, and all different types of music were played, including a popular dance song "The Time Warp."

Students danced, mingled with friends and enjoyed refreshments. Lapine said, "I had a lot of fun."

Whether students went to the dance for the chance to dress up, or just to dance and have a good time. Sophomore Dan Lehman said, "The dance was definitely a success."

By Mary Green

As senior Derek Hart rests from fatigue, the vampire wives, senior Kirstin Mead, sophomore Dawn Pappas and junior Theresa Lavenduskiy try to awake him as a part of their mission from their husband

Back in the green room where the actors get ready, senior Alan Washburn applies his make-up for his part in "Dracula." Washburn has performed atop the stage for four years since his freshman year

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Sinking Teeth for Applause

During the third week of November, the dramatics department "sunk its teeth" into the community with the opening of "Dracula."

Next door to Dr. Quincy, a well known psychiatrist, is a castle by the name of Carfax Castle. A young man named Jonathon Harker sells the deserted dwelling to a Romanian nobleman by the name of Count Dracula, not knowing what trouble he will cause.

Dracula terrorizes Dr. Quincy's patients, such as Renfield (a crazy, insect-eating psychopath) and his niece, Lucy. After falling under the vampire's spell, Lucy is nearly a vampire herself. Until the vampire slayer, Professor Van Helsing, arrives on the scene for a one-night encounter before dawn with the Count.

While many students tried out for the play because "Dracula" was well publisized, other students realized the real reason for trying out.

Sophomore Heather Bush, who played Van Helsing, said, "I just had this strong desire to perform again. I love it!"

Senior Alan Washburn captured the coveted role of Dracula and agreed with his part's foes. "My freshman year, I had tried out and made chorus. Tenth grade, sports didn't work out, so I went to 'Bull in a China Shop.' After that, I just couldn't stay away."

Instead of favoring Renfield (senior Josh McCaslin) some audience member's favored Dracula or Jonathon.

Senior Jenene Stafford said, "The first appearance of Dracula was my favorite part because it sent shivers up my spine. Renfield was hysterical with all his jumping around
and being carried offstage sitting Indian-style."

"Jonathon's (senior Derek Hart) appearance was great because the way he acted, his stature and everything, he was just there!" Senior Annette Munoz said.

The performers had their favorite parts, as well.

"The ending scene is very exciting. When Mina (senior Stacy Smolnicky) screams at what she see's in the garden, the climax was very well done," Newhall said.

Bush disagreed by saying her favorite part was that of her own, "When I encounter Dracula for the last time and show the cross to his astonishment and I say 'Too late, Count Dracula!'" Bush said.

All the hard work and practicing could not have been done without the direction and guidance of the directors.

Assistant director, Ms. Molly Thomas, said, "It went great. I couldn't believe the improvement from the Tuesday before the show and the last dress rehearsal. It was amazing with the costumes, lighting and sounds. The performer's were really professional about everything and learned a lot, I did as well."

Washburn concluded about being on top of the stage, "Once you're up there, you're hooked."

By Joe Durk

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Forewarning Lucy and Arthur (senior Shawn Stutler) about the dangers of Dracula, Professor Van Helsing tells the engaged couple to be careful and to protect each other. Van Helsing was played by sophomore Heather Bush, who made her first appearance in 'My Fair Lady' as a butcher boy. Bush said she loved playing the lad and can't wait to play other roles.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Waiting for Dracula to come and relieve her for the night, Lucy Westenra sits solemnly at midnight. Senior Julie Castro played the part of Lucy, as she has played many parts on the stage, such as 'Annie' and Choraliers.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Dracula-Front Row: Josh McCaslin. **Second Row:** Theresa Lavendusky, Dawn Pappas, Kirstin Mead. **Back Row:** Jennifer Kelly, Shawn Stutler, Julie Castro, Jeremiah Newhall, Cathy Merritt, Samantha Hodsen, Heather Bush, Alan Washburn, Stacey Smolnicky, Derek Hart, Sarah Bradford, Jerry Criswell, Jennifer Johnson.

Strangers Becoming Friends

At the end of January, 20 senior boys danced to theme song from "Friends," and ended up becoming friends themselves with some people they might have never known otherwise.

Senior Nick Patell said the reason he joined was because of his friends. "My friends really encouraged me to participate. I made more friendships with people I had never met before, but also made the ones I already had stronger."

Senior Mike Krueger agreed, "My first year [here] was as a junior and I made so many new friends during this program, I just felt like I fit in."

OYM was started five years ago by Mr. Joe Stevens as a way to give the senior boys a chance to earn scholarships and to have fun before venturing out into the "real world."

Earning a $1,200 scholarship with a plaque and medallion, senior Alan Washburn was awarded with top honors as Outstanding Young Man. Senior finalists were Chris Spurrier, Jeff Levenda, Ryan Gabey and Jason Skolak, all received a scholarship and a plaque.

Washburn said, "I was quite happy and surprised. And what makes it great is that the program helps Portage stand out from any other school, and I'm glad I can represent that."

Throughout the course of the evening, there were periodical "cat calls" from girls and laughter from many, a majority of the participants said their favorite part was the fitness portion.

"The fitness part was my favorite because it seemed like the best icebreaker between us. After that, I knew we were all good friends, not just acquaintances who would just say 'hi' in the hall," senior Aaron Galindo said. "It was really cool hearing everyone laugh with us doing the 'YMCA' segment."

Senior Stacy Smolnicky, one of five fitness choreographers, said, "It was really good seeing a bunch of guys go from nothing, to everything that happened on Saturday. They all did an excellent job getting down the steps after all the rehearsals."

Before the rehearsals started, each boy was required to fill out an interview about themselves. On the night of judging, the boys were interviewed again by Stevens to help ease the nervousness that had bottled up inside them.

"My most memorable part was when we had to talk about ourselves with Mr. Stevens, just because we were all so nervous!" Levenda said.

Not only did they talk about themselves personally, but they also discussed their goals. Almost everyone had the same answer for their goal, which was to earn money. Senior Tim Slamkowski said, "I just went out there to have fun, enjoy myself and earn money for college."

With a "Most definitely" or "There's no doubt about it," everyone who participated said they would certainly take part in Outstanding Young Man again, just because they had so much fun and how does the song go ... "I'll be there for you ... ?"

By Joe Durk

Photo by Joe Durk
Pointing toward the rafters to the accompanying song of "YMCA," the contestants performed the physical fitness portion of the OYM event. Most of the guys said their favorite part was the fitness routine because it brought them closer together as friends.

Just after the closing of OYM, senior Alicia Smith gives a congratulatory hug to fellow classmate senior Jason Skolak for his achievements that won him fourth finalist. Skolak said he wanted to win the award to follow his brother and joked about it during the interviewing segment of the program.

Photo by Joe Durk

Standing in company with last year's winner, Mr. David Skolak and first runner up, Mr. Marc Morales, senior Alan Washburn wins the 1996 Portage Outstanding Young Man award. Washburn said, "It was like Christmas revisted all over again!"

Photo by Joe Durk

Standing in the spotlight, Mr. Joe Stevens has been "Master of Ceremonies" for the Outstanding Young Man program since he started it five years ago. OYM gave a chance to give senior boys some scholarships before going to college or whatever life has to bring them.

Photo by Joe Durk

Competitors and friends surround senior Kaimi Blaha to congratulate her for being selected as a finalist. Blaha went on to win the Junior Miss competition.

Performing the end of the physical fitness routine, seniors Tiffany Kirchner, Heidi Hedstrom and Gia Fornari share a moment of friendship and laughter. Physical fitness was one of the major parts of Junior Miss.

Performing from a script she wrote, senior Shana Pollock adds a little comedy with "Rowdy Rhoda's Roadside Roadkill Bar & Grill." Talent was a part of the competition each contestant had to fulfill.

Being honored as the 1993-1994 Junior Miss, Anne Crockett sits in between 1994-1995 Outstanding Young Man runner-up, Mike Rake, and 1994-1995 Outstanding Young Man, Dave Skolak. Crockett was honored as being the '93-'94 Junior Miss by getting a chance to crown and congratulate the new Junior Miss.

Ladies celebrate a week of friendship and bonding upon the closing of the Junior Miss competition. Some girls were happy about the friendships that developed and the memories that were shared. Senior Gia Fornari said, "We all became closer."

Strutting for Scholarships

Standing in sequined gowns, hair curled and makeup done, 35 girls fidget anxiously as they await the announcement of the new Junior Miss.

"And the 1995-1996 Junior Miss winner is ... Kaimi Blaha," former principal Mr. Forrest L. Rhode said.

"I was excited when I was standing up there waiting. I had no idea they were going to call my name. I think I was more excited for everybody else that was standing up there with me," Blaha, a senior, said.

The four finalists other than Kaimi were seniors Gia Fornari, Tina Fingerhoot, Elizabeth Slatton and Jenny Siminski.

Junior Miss is a competition used to promote physical, mental and educational awareness. Girls from all over the nation get a chance to participate in the program for a college scholarship. The winner from each high school participates in a competition for the state Junior Miss. The winner from state then travels to Mobile, Ala., to compete for the national Junior Miss title, which grants a $30,000 college scholarship to the winner.

Junior Miss consisted of five major parts; presence and composure, scholastic achievement, a judges interview, creative and performing arts (talent) and physical fitness. Each girl was to perform each of these parts to the best of her ability.

Fingerhoot said, "Everyone had a different talent and it showed in the talent part of the competition. Some people were good at some things , while others were good at different things."

Junior Miss, for some, was also a great way to meet people in same class and a good way to become close friends with other participants.

Fornari said, "I became friends with a lot of people I didn't really know, or wasn't friends with before Junior Miss. We all became closer."

By Derinda Smith

Getting Into the Spirit

Dressed from a camaflouge look, to a beach bum look, the students showed their spirit during Winter Homecoming Week. Through the morning announcements, the school viewed team highlight videos acknowledging both the girls and boys teams.

During Homecoming week, the classes competed. These included "Beach Bum Day," "Inside Out Day," Pajama Day," "Camoflouge Day," and "Red and White Day." Freshman Stacy Iliff said, "Pajama day [was fun], because you got to wear something different, you don't have to follow the dress codes."

The Winter Homecoming King, Queen, Prince, and Princess were nominated by the senior and junior classes.

The final decisions were announced at halftime during the game. When all of the nominees were escorted by their parents into the main gym, the announcement of the Homecoming King, Queen, Prince, and Princess was made. Nominees for King were Dave Brubaker, Joe Christian, Scott Curran, Jason Skolak and Nick Wellman.

Nominees for Queen were Kelly Fallon, Tina Fingerhoot, Trisha Martin, Erika Murrow and Valentine Torres.

Nominees for Prince were Andy Berger, Nathan Mundt, Mike Pickering, Leroy Vega and Mike Wall.

Nominees for Princess were Nikki Floyd, Meagan Gerkin, Autum Hyde, Melissa Mongoven and Shauna Urbanik.

The Winter Homecoming King was Scott Curran, Queen was Valentine Torres, Prince was Leroy Vega and Princess was Autum Hyde.

After the game against the Merrillville Pirates and a score of 49-52, the students enjoyed the Winter Homecoming/Valentines dance with their dates and friends.

By Stacy Lemley

Senior Nat Henson shoots for two points during the Varsity game. The Indians practiced hard to have a successful season.

Senior Scott Curran is crowned the Winter Homecoming King. The King nominees dressed up for this occasion during half-time.

Senior Jason Hallenback tosses a layup to add two points to their score. The Indians played the Merrillville Pirates and won, of 49-52.

Winter Homecoming Queen and King were seniors Valentine Torres and Scott Carran. The Prince and Princess were juniors Leroy Vega and Autum Hyde. They were announced during the Winter Homecoming game.

Senior Jason Hallenbeck tosses a layup over a Merriville Pirate during the Homecoming game. The student body and family took part in cheering the team on during many of the home and away games.

Seniors Nick Wellman, Jon Lopez, Kevin DeVries and Joe Christian pose for the camera, while in the southwestern state of Arizona. Coming back to Portage tanned, they said they had a great time.

Junior Cathy Merritt touches an old replica of Roman art, while on the school trip. The students and faculty members traveled through Spain, France and Italy. Merritt also saw a large hand of the same caliber.

Spring into last semester

Beep ... Beep ... Beep ... a student scrambles to reach his alarm clock, frantically searching for the button to turn it off. Getting out of bed, he suddenly realizes, "I do not have to go to school today it's Spring Break." Then he falls lazily back into bed to catch some long awaited sleep.

Spring Break means many things to a variety of different people. For most, it is a time to get away from the everyday routine they have slipped into over the course of the school year. Junior Pete Shaw said, "Spring Break is just a time to relax and get a tan." Like most athletes, Pete did not get to go away for Spring Break, because he chose to stay and play baseball. But, Pete was not disappointed, "I love baseball, and I got to work out and run a lot."

Junior Nick Karris also stayed home for Spring Break. "I spent Easter with my mom, brother and sister. I also played basketball and watched the Cubs play baseball." Karris also used his Spring Break to take a time-out from his swim training for the Para-lympic tryouts.

Some students and faculty members took advantage of the week off, planning vacations to warmer areas of the world. Senior Kelly Zaparucha travelled on a cruise, with the Kirchner family, to four islands of the Caribbean. Zaparucha said, "My ultimate vacation would be to go on a cruise again."

Some families chose to spend Spring Break together, while other families used Spring Break as a time to get away from even each other. "I think Spring Break is a time for seniors to go on vacation with their friends, but otherwise, I feel it is a nice time for a family vacation," Mrs. Darla Foreman, secretary said.

Junior Steve Lugo disagreed saying, "Spring Break should be more of a friend thing. You see your family all the time. You should get to be with your friends and do what you want to do."

By Jennifer Buergler

Sophomores Emily Bauer, Kim Hendley, Kelly Rich and Tessie Frechette spend time bonding with Jennie Hamilton, their friend from St. Peters, Mo.

Before Jesus tells them to act nice and love one another, sophomore Megan Nelson kicks and punches as senior Karl Brown who defends his body. "Godspell" was Nelson's and Brown's first dramatic appearance on the stage.

During the number "Turn Back, O Man," seniors Kathy Claudio and Alan Washburn dance closely thanks to a pink feather boa. Much of the cast played their parts using own names, except for Washburn who was Jesus.

Godspell - **Front Row:** Michelle Vottero, Jessica McKee. **Second Row:** Kirstin Mead, Cindy Bickham, Heather Jaques, Cheryl Guzikowski, Mandi Cohen, Samantha Hodsden, Kathy Claudio, Kris Santonelli. **Third Row:** Joe Auskalnis, Tiffany Stewart, Inka Ryazanova, Ashley Reynolds, Rhonda Woodke, Megan Nelson, Syd Hodsden, Mr. Ken Grcich. **Fourth Row:** Amy Washburn, Rhonda Sulcer, Andrea Skafish, Patrick Sanchez, Heather Johnston, Matt Williams, Craig Golbesky, Jeff King, Mr. Bill Bodnar, Shawn Stutler. **Back Row:** Karl Brown, Jay Fields.

Duirng the final scene of the musical, senior Alan Washburn portrays Jesus on the cross as seniors Kathy Claudio, Kaimi Blaha and Julie Castro mourn his death.

Goofing around after the musical, juniors fraternal twin sisters Syd and Samantha Hodsden were a part of the chorus. "Godspell" was Syd's first musical appearance, but was Samantha's third appearance.

'Godspell' shines once again

With what is supposed to be a serious story, the cast of "Godspell" celebrated the story of Jesus with an upbeat, colorful rendition in its' 25th anniversary.

Unlike most stage productions, the chronicle was a continuous run-on, with no scene changes, except for the 15 minute intermission in which the cast partied with the audience and invited them on the stage for refreshments.

On opening night, which is usually the most difficult and nerve-racking for the cast, the auditorium was evacuated because of an unexpected tornado warning, which sent people fleeing to the commons. Some people even thought it was part of the play.

"I thought the tornado was part of the play at first, but when I saw the looks on the cast's faces, I knew it was real," junior Katie Jurgensen said.

The beginning of the play started off with Joan Osbourne's No. 1 hit, "One of Us," which also set the mood. Then, a little monologue by John the Baptist (Mr. Bill Bodnar) set in followed by the dressing of Jesus (senior Alan Washburn) and a drenching baptizing of the entire audience. Finally, the action started and the lessons were learned.

Senior Kaimi Blaha, who played a farmer, said, "All the performances went well. Friday's [performance] was definitely the most unusual, but the cast did a great job in all of the performances."

"We all had to pull together every night to give the best we could," Washburn said. "'Godspell' was a beast altogether."

For Blaha and Washburn, who were the stage veterans, and the rest of the seniors, the chronicle was an emotional production because it was the last time they would ever be together atop the high school stage. Blaha said, "It was sad, but exciting. PHS will lead me to my future. I'll be doing theater in college. I think of it this way, it may be the end here, but the first of many."

With it being the end for the seniors, the chronicle's end changed from two different tones. First, Jesus died on the fence with the cast crying and hurling themselves against the steel barricade, then members of the audience rejoiced in his resurrection. Jurgensen said, "The end was done really well. It was almost emotional. It was a great ending to a great play!"

By Joe Durk

Senior Michael Hatala, valedictorian, quoted the book "All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Commonly quoted at graduations everywhere, Mike showed the importance of parental motivation and involvement in education.

Senior Jennifer Sceigal, salutatorian, gives her speech during commencement. Sceigal spoke of how all she had wanted to do for so long was get out of school, and now that it was over, the time had flown by too fast.

Seniors Stacey Smolnicky and Elizabeth Slatton move their tassels to the left side, indicating that they had officially graduated. Both Smolnicky and Slatton were members of the National Honor Society, shown by their stoles.

The Real World

Despite the rainy, gloomy day on June 7, smiles were seen through tears as 459 seniors graduated and moved on into the real world. Valedictorian Michael Hatala said, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you, and 90 percent how you react to it." Stepping into a new chapter of each of their lives, the senior were prepared to react.

Just about an hour before graduation was scheduled to start, the seniors were asked to meet in the auditorium. Mr. Richard Kirchner, principal, told the seniors that he had recently attended his 30 year high school reunion, and was amazed to hear people say that high school was the highlight of their life.' He said, "I challenge you all not to let high school be the highlight of your life. Do something more!"

Mr. David Baker, the long time principal of Paul Saylor Elementary School, who would retire this summer, was chosen to give the commencement address. Many past graduation speakers chose to quote the book "All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," Mr. Baker also quoted this book, however, he showed how there is really much more about life to learn. He also said that without the extra help from parents and teachers, children would never really learn the values spoken of in this book.

After the ceremony was all said and done, the seniors faced the actual world of decision making. Whether or not to work, or kick back and enjoy the summer along with whether to or where to attend college were all important questions that needed to be answered.

Senior Melissa Fekete said she would be attending college, but had not yet decided where she would attend. "I have been waiting for the clearing house review to receive my softball scholarships." The clearing house has to approve all college athletes before any scholarship money is issued.

Senior Nicole Gass will be attending Purdue University North Central to major in elementary education. "I wanted to stay home at least this year, I might move into an apartment with some of my friends if I decide to stay at PNC for my sophomore year."

Regardless of which path the members of the Class of 1996 decide to follow, they will remember Kirchner's final words, "Don't let high school be the highlight of your life."

By Jennifer Buergler

Senior Kevin Brown listens as Valedictorian Michael Hatala gives his speech. The graduates were very quiet as each speaker left them with advice for the future.

Posing in the limelight for the camera, juniors Kelly Charbonneau and Charlie Greer accept their announcements as prom princess and prince. The event was followed an hour later by the garter ceremony.

Captured in a dream

As students entered the balloon and streamer decked Expo Center, the soft lights and music seemed to follow with the evening's theme, "Captured in a Dream." Each couple's entrance was announced over the loudspeaker as they made their way through the formally dressed crowd.

For many, preparation for this night was expensive and stressful, but most students agree that it was worth the trouble. Sophomore Stephanie Smock said, "It was expensive, but it was really worth it."

After most of the students had arrived, they danced and socialized until the crowning of the prom court. Dancing was a favorite part of the evening. Sophomore Cathy Zielinski said, "My favorite part of prom night was dancing and just being with my friends."

Dancing also made for the only suggestion for improvement for prom night. Smock said, "The dance floor was too small. They need to leave more space for people to dance."

Most students thought that the prom traditions were worthwhile and should be observed at future proms. Zielinski said, "They should keep all of the prom traditions."

Some students even had a favorite tradition. Senior Curtis Smith said, "The garter ceremony was my favorite tradition for obvoius reasons."

Another prom tradition includes the crowning of the prom court. Juniors Kelly Charbonneau and Charlie Greer were named princess and prince. Senior Missy Fekete was crowned prom queen and senior David Reynolds was the king. The prom court lead the dance to the evening's theme song, "Making Love Out of Nothing at All."

After a few slow dances, the garter ceremony was held, then, after another hour of dancing, prom was over. But that didn't mean the end of all the prom festivities for some students. Zielinski said, "We went out to eat at Shoney's after we left prom. We spent Saturday at Great America." Great America was a common place for couples to go on prom weekend. The school sold discount tickets for couples who planned to go.

Smith said, "We left early in the morning on Saturday and went to Navy Pier with my sister."

Whether the prom night celebration ended at midnight, or lasted the entire following weekend, it was all too soon a fond memory in Smock's opinion. "It was a really memorable night."

By Mary Green

Dancing in the middle of it all, 1995 graduate Yvonne Pedroza and senior Ricky Littlefield hold on to each other to remember the time. The couple had gone to prom two times before and said they didn't quite enjoy prom as much as before.

After a night full of dancing, juniors Nikki Floyd and Andy Berger take a breather. Floyd and Berger went as a couple, but some students just went together as friends.

After being named prom queen and king, seniors Missy Fekete and David Reynolds had all eyes on them as they dance to the theme song, "Making Love Out of Nothing at All." The royalty was voted on by juniors and seniors who were attending the prom during lunch on Monday of the previous week.

Variety connects crowd

Bands, magic acts, dancers, singers, comedy skits and monologues were some of the acts that made the Variety Show a true variety of talent.

Many students found out that the Variety Show was a good way to show off their talents. Junior Samantha Hodsden said, "I really enjoyed watching everyone else perform. There was so much talent on the stage."

Before students could be a part of the show, they had to pass an audition.

Hodsden said, "My personal audition was a breeze. I had the confidence that made it to the show."

Junior Nick Lyman, the bassist for "Collage Fields," said, "Trying to get a band in the variety Show is a lot harder than any other act. There were separate auditions for bands and other acts."

Since the show is an extracurricular activity, students had to fit practice into their own spare time.

"I gave a monologue, which I was practicing two or three times a week anyway because I was in the middle of the season for Speech Team," Hodsden said.

No matter how much they practiced, the performers could not have made the show a success without the audience. The crowd applauded and cheered after every act.

Junior Amanda Siroky, who watched the show said, "I really enjoyed seeing people I know on stage. I was surprised at how talented some of them were."

Senior Bridgette Swab agreed. "It really brought people together in the audience," she said.

At one point during the last act, which was a well-known local band called "Mingo Street," a large part of the crowd stood up and started to dance.

Though most reactions from spectators were all well appreciated, some performers were a little disappointed in their own performance.

Lyman said, "One person said we sounded like 'Hootie and the Blowfish.' I would consider that to be a bad reaction."

By Elizabeth Verbich

Loving warmth left behind

For 13 years, Mrs. Joyce Null served lunch to the students and staff of East with a smile. Her service ended April 8, when Null was killed in a three-car accident on U.S. Highway 6.

The death of Null has touched many people outside her family. Many students were shocked to find out that their favorite "salad lady," who treated them with great love and respect, had died. "Everyday when I got a salad, Mrs. Null would be there with her warm smile. She remembered exactly how everyone wanted their food, and served it with pleasure. I went and bought a salad today, but it wasn't the same, the salad was still there, but she wasn't. I will miss her," senior Michele Brown said.

At her funeral April 11, her co-workers and friends read Null a letter that best described her and her impact on those who worked around her. "Thank you for your warm smile, the jokes you told, the tears you cried when we were hurting, the laughter. Thank you for always pitching in, being able to read our minds when we needed, for setting such a wonderful example. Thank you for the ribbing, the comforting and the clear thinking, the sweat, the hurrying, the filling in and taking over. Thank you for loving to come work with us, and for setting high standards and for reaching them, too. Thank you for letting us feel your love for each of us, and for our Heavenly Father."

The eulogy also echoed Brown's statement about Null's relation to the students here.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration in the way you related to the students at Portage High.

Whether dealing with Florence Nightingale or with Dennis the Menace, you were always fair, firm and loving, treating them as if they were your own. The parents of this community are deeply thankful for this. And thank you for the special way you loved our 'special' kids, and how you taught them with respect and dignity. They sure love you now and forever."

In their final statement about their dear friend, the food service staff reminded themselves and others that Null will always remain with them. "We feel the loss. We know that you are not here, but we know that you are everywhere now. Your warmth has now become a part of the sun, your tears fill the oceans, your laughter, the sound of the day dawning. Your beauty has joined the sky, and if we ever need a reminder, we will remember how beautiful the sky is today, for you are at your best now. Your compassion is the flame that now boils the tears from our hearts. It will later be the memory that simmers until we see you again."

By Cheryl Banke

Special Memories are never Forgotten

What were your fondest memories of Joyce Null?

"Her laughter and the way she was always there for us."
Mrs. Kelly Dooley

"She was a very special person. The world would be a lot better place if there were more people like her in it."
Mrs. Linda Showalterbaugh

"I'll never forget her because she was so caring and dedicated to her family, job and friends."
Mrs. Judy Havrilla

"She was always happy and necer complained."
Mrs. Marsha Stephens

"She was always happy and positive. She was a best friend to everyone."
Ms. Joy Rohde

"She was easy to get along with and just a very sweet person."
Mrs. Lea Campbell

"She was one of my very good friends. She was just loving, caring and sharing."
Mrs. Dorothy Peterson

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Mr. Richard Kirchner, principal, speaks to students interested in participating in the new mill right program offered at the school. After the first introduction of the class, meetings were held during school with all interested juniors and sophomores in attendance.

Students at Myers Elementary are prepared to put on their opera. The students conveyed a very positive message about the dangers of smoking.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Working Together

As lawmakers and businessmen battle about the effect Joe Camel, Camel Cigarette's advertising icon, had on children, fifth graders at Meyers School expressed their views on the heated subject.

The medium that the children chose to use, however, was not the usual debate or essay writing contest. Instead, the 35 children wrote an entire opera on the subject of smoking and fitting in with older children.

The opera "A Time to Decide," had four songs originally written and produced by the children. Every aspect of the opera from costume to public relations, was handled by the children, collectively labeled as "Myers Opera Company 1996."

The company, supported with grant money from the Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Department and Portage Township Schools, was becoming self-sufficient through video sales. Myers is one of 14 schools in the state to receive the grant money from the Opera Guild.

To the students working as a team to produce "A Time to Decide," the opera was more than another production, but a learning experience.

Mrs. Lynn Vaught, a Myers teacher who helped the public relations team, said that trust was definitely learned by the Company. "Everyone was pretty much doing their own thing and the kids had to trust that everyone was doing their part," she said.

The message in the opera was simply stated by Kyle Sonaty, an actor in the production. "You shouldn't smoke, and if you do, you'll get in trouble."

By Cheryl Banke

The Career Connection

While most students were enjoying a half-day off of school Feb. 13, members of Student Council and other guests were introduced to a new "School to Work" program and Gov. Evan Bayh.

Bayh arrived by helicopter to help Principal Richard Kirchner and Superintendent Dr. George McKay introduce "Industrial Technology: Carers in Manufacturing" to the public. Members of Bethlehem Steel, National Steel and United Steel Workers of America were also on hand to celebrate the introduction of the new course. The program, which McKay labeled as a B.E.L. (Business, education and labor) effort, will be offered to 15 select students next school year.

Mr. Joseph Emig, president of the Burns Harbor Division of Bethlehem Steel, said the program is very important to everyone concerned. "Students have a future and will be aware that it does not matter if they do not go on to college to see a true partnership with school and industry."

Mr. Michael Silverthorn, a staff representative for United Steelworkers of America, who worked for more than two years on the new course, agreed with Emig's statement about the benefits that students received. "I don't think a person that doesn't go to college gets the same respect as those who do," he said. Silverthorn hopes that this program will help its graduates earn respect from the public.

The benefits of "Industrial Technology: Careers in Manufacturing" go beyond local interest, Bayh said. In a press release, Bayh said, "Porter County's innovative partnership of business and labor organizations, educators and students can serve as a role model for communities around the state of a successful and effective School-to-Work program. I applaud the efforts of these groups to provide a better education for Hoosier children and to help them prepare for the challenges of the next century.

Another benefit that Ms. Tamara Freeman, director of human resources at National Steel, finds in the program is that the skills learned in the School-to-Work program are transferable to many other industries beyond that of steel work. She also added that the course will prepare the students for any college or two year program.

Bayh agreed that the program will strengthen students in all academic areas. "There is a solid foundation in the basic disciplines: Mathematics, science, reading and writing, and that takes it a step further by exposing young people to specific crafts and job skills, but at the same time, increasing the ability to go on and get a degree." By Cheryl Banke

Permanently Stuck Forever?

A "crisis" occurred involving student parking. The new parking permits were bumper stickers that had to be permanently affixed to the students cars. Students practically threw hissy fits when the permits were handed to them.

The administrators quickly tried to pacify the driving students. Instead of placing stickers on the bumpers of the cars, the stickers could be placed in the rear windows. The students still fought this compromise. Petitions were passed around the school and the issue was brought up at the following school board meeting. Many students voiced their opinions through the Pow Wow.

The bumper stickers were approximately 5 inches x 3 inches and were black and white in color. Some students were concerned about taking their cars out in public, because if someone from a rival school were to see the sticker, they would know who it belonged to and might harm the car.

"I don't think it's [bumper sticker policy] necessary because I don't like having a pass permanently adhered to my car," said junior Eric Stanley.

Senior Alfredo Rodriguez agreed, "I think they [administration] should give window stickers because those just peel off and don't leave a mark that can ruin the bumper."

Nothing materialized in the students favor of students who opposed the stickers. The administrators stood at the edge of the parking lot for two mornings, stopping each car and checking it for a properly attached sticker. Those students who failed to comply with the parking regulations, received Saturday class.

The administrations reasoning for having parking stickers, rather than passes, was understandable. They needed to make sure that those cars parked in the student lot, were student vehicles, parking passes could have easily been stolen, lent or given away. By Cheryl Banke
Jennifer Buergler

Sniffing Around

In between the fine line of black and white is a tight wire of gray that many people walk when trying to decide on a solution to a problem. As people voice their opinion, the tight wire becomes thinner and a compromise must be made or chaos will result.

Such is the case with the drug dogs coming to search the school. While just about everyone agrees that drugs have no place in school, methods used to keep the school drug-free seem to be debatable.

One side truly believes that the drug dogs should be a vital part of the drug detection at school. While this side has the law behind it, it seems that lawyers and law enforcement officials are the only people that this side is really listening to.

The other side of the debate, while remaining almost unheard, has deep concerns about the practice of enlisting drug dogs to combat possession of illegal drugs at school. This side of the gray tight wire has court cases and the American Civil Liberties Union on its side. As skeptics on this side ask their hypothetical "what if" questions, they do not offer a solution to keep drugs off campus.

As for the individual walking the tight wire on this issue, it is hard to choose one side when arguments from both sides are so strong. The only clear decision that can be made from this group is that no one seems to be willing to listen to another person's viewpoint on the situation.

Both Nov. 30 and Dec. 12 actions were both legal and responsible. Because of the secrecy of the events, the "what ifs" as posed by one side of the argument are irrelevant when examined. Future searches must be handled in the same cautious manner, or situations could become a nightmarish reality.

Searches in the parking lot during and after school hours do not pose a large threat of misunderstanding, however, if the dogs are bought into the building during the course of the school day, administrators and other adults must monitor the hallways to ensure that no one removes or deposits articles in lockers. If drugs are found in a locker, which almost anyone has access to through slots, a complete and through investigation must be made before any recourse is taken.

It is safe to say that drug dogs are here to stay, whether some agree or not. But for the administration to be just as safe, the responsible actions and attitudes that have been portrayed in the first two searches need to remain present in any future drug dog searches.

By Cheryl Banke

Portage police officers stand by as drug dog Dino enters the building. The search yielded no drugs, however, seven lockers were searched.

(Photo by Cheryl Bank

Sarah's memory lives on

This past August, the town of Portage and surrounding areas were torn apart by the murder of 8 year old Sarah Paulsen. To make sure Sarah's memory lived on, the Portage Junior Miss Softball teams decided to build a memorial park in her honor with the help of local businesses and fellow community members.

According to Mrs. Penny Gorgi, president of Jr Miss, Jr. Miss chose to take on this project because Sarah had played on one of their teams for the past two years. Another reason Jr. Miss took on this project was because Sarah's murder took place very close to their fields. "When they said that someone had been murdered, we thought it was on our field, it was very close to us," Georgi said.

Sarah lived half a mile away from where the memorial park will be located. The park will be off Blake Road across from the Jr. Miss field. The memorial play park will be open all year and will be a public park.

To raise money for the park, Jr. Miss coordinated many fund-raisers. On April 13, a 'tag day' was held in which adults collected money from cars stopped at stoplights. Burger King hosted a benefit night for Sarah in which 20 percent of all sales were donated to the construction of the park. "We have had so many donations, the people have just been wonderful," Georgi said.

The park will be dedicated to Sarah on May 4, 1996, opening day for Junior Miss Softball. Helping with the dedication will be Georgi, Mayor Sammie Maletta and Portage police chief , Dave Reynolds.

By Cheryl Banke and Mini Montpetit

God bless you Sarah, may you be safe forever.

Our deepest respect,
PHS Publications

Because of You

dedicated to Sarah Lynn Paulsen
By Jennifer Buergler

So, I heard they finally caught you, well I guess that's good to know.
But what you really did, I doubt you'll ever know.

I was only 8 years old, how was I to know,
the sin you would commit and the fate you would bestow?

I was trusting, young and kind with friends and family to love.
But I can no longer touch them, just look down from above.

I miss my mommy so very much. I just want one more hug.
She can never tuck me in again, to make me warm and snug.

By hurting me, you robbed us, of the precious things we'd share.
I won't hear the things she'd tell me, you ruined that, but didn't care.

I miss my daddy just as much, his kind eyes I cannot see.
He'll never walk me down the aisle, because of you it cannot be.

My poor brothers can't understand, they don't know what you did.
Walking by my empty room, they feel the pain within.

There is something else I miss, my husband and kids I never met.
Because of you my life was cut short, it's hard to deal with death.

Do you know it's not just me you hurt, but many around this place?
Because of people like you, our world is an untrusting place.

The one last thing I want to say, is that I hope you realize,
that even though you hurt me, I have no reason to despise.

I am no one to judge you, for when all on earth is said and done,
you will be judged by a higher power, because you hurt a little one.

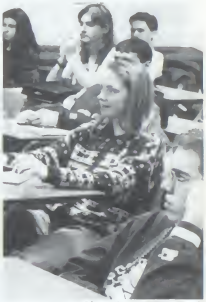
What Now?

Sarah Lynn Paulsen was found murdered Aug. 22, in a wooded area behind the Church of God on Central Avenue. The killer was Eugene Britt, of Gary , Ind. Britt admitted to police that he killed Sarah Lynn Paulsen but, police believed that he was also connected to several murders of a similar kind. According to Dectective Roger Peele, Britt pleaded guilty to all charges and was sentenced to three life sentences, with no chance of parole.

Mental Connection

(Photo by Shannon Strickland)
During their Biology 2 class in Dr. Je Bertram's room, juniors Mike Wall an Charlie Greer examine the external anatom of their fetal pig. The dissection was a maj part of the nine weeks grading period.

IT'S *Still* Connected



(Photo by William Busch)

Paying special attention, juniors Chad Pio and Syd Hodsden watch as Mr. Jason Cope dresses in Viking garb during their first mod compostition class. Cope gave the students a hands-on education by showing them actual weapons and clothing from the genre.

In Mr. Dan "Doc" Merrill's classroom, junior Charlie Fruewirth looks to the board for the homework assignment. Many students took athletic training to get an experince with sports medicine.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

(Photo by William Bus

Helping sophomore Joe Ernst with a Life Science project in the first semester, Ms. Christan Bohde looks on and gives constructive help. Bohde graduated from Indiana University and majored in Biology.

During her first year full-time teaching, Mrs. Lou Looft watches as a student in her third hour class works on an assignment. Looft said her parents encouraged to be a teacher when she was a child.

(Photo by Samantha Ortma

New faces, new techniques

For new teachers, the thought of school back in session made them excited, anxious to see new faces, and begin a new year, start from the beginning.

Mr. Mark Fisher, vocational printing adviser who took over for the late Mr. Martin Toglio, went to Vincennes University in Vincennes, Ind. and got a degree in Printing Technology. Fisher said, "I like teaching, and will start out making more than minimum wage because of the hands-on class, also a diploma makes my job worthwhile."

For some new teachers, being new to this school doesn't necessarily mean they're new to teaching. Many have had jobs at different schools before PHS.

Mrs. Jane Schmidt, who came from Fegely Middle School teaching mathematics, graduated from Ball State University, with a degree in mathematics. She is now teaching pre-algebra, Algebra I, and Algebra II. Schmidt said, "My first day I felt short. The students here are a little calmer and a lot taller."

Senior Dawn Watson said, "Mrs. Schmidt is funny and overall she is a good teacher."

New teachers have brought new teaching techniques, but in return the students given and taught them new techniques for years to come.

By Stacy Lemley

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Working on a pamphlet for the school, Mr. Mark Fischer helps senior Lester Allison during the his plan period. Since taking over for the late Mr. Martin Troglio, Fischer has more than quadrupled the size of the pre-vocational print shop.

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

During her Pre-Algebra class, Mrs. Jane Schmidt helps her students with some board problems. Schmidt graduated from Ball State University and majored in mathematics.

(Photo by Angel Rodrigu

Mrs. Christine Pruitt informs her Economics class of the plans for the day. While teaching both Sociology and Economics, she chose to incorporate various group activities and visual aids.

Mr. Mike Lemond takes a break from Economics and peruses a newspaper. He also is in charge of the only student credit union in the state.

(Photo by Angel Rodrigu

Students learn uses of spending

A 15 minute recess was called by Annette Munoz, a senior who was posing as chairperson of Congress. The Congressmen muttered quietly to themselves before rising to mingle with fellow members. This intermission gave members of Congress an opportunity to discuss personal views concerning upcoming bills on an individual level. Pacts were made between every member of Congress in order to pass, or put down certain bills based on the way that fictional constituents felt about them.

The name of the game is democracy, and it was played in Mr. Ron Hancock's government classes once per semester in order to illustrate how Congress functions.

"Government effects us all of the time because of laws and rules, and no one can avoid consumer economics," Hancock said.

Both government and economics were required courses. Some, however, will argue the legitimacy of making them mandatory.

Senior Jami Holman said, "We need to know a little bit, but who really cares?" Views about the necessity of government and economics courses were, no doubt, controversial. However, different views were available for analyzation.

Mr. Jim Wheeler, who teaches at Willowcreek Middle School and also teaches economics and government in summer school, said, "The topic of government and history itself is fascinating, it's just the text that's boring." He also said the text is too repetitious and dry.

Senior Bridgette Swab believes that the teaching methods of government and economics used by teachers are the only way for the information to be useful.

"The general principles of government and 'econ' are beneficial to anyone's future, but it's all useless if the teacher can't get your attention," Swab said.

Most teachers understood this factor, and made an honest effort to compensate for the downfalls of using a textbook. In Hancock's class, he attempted to incorporate the use of computers, current events and audio/visual equipment. Regular class trips were made to the media center and computer labs during class time to read current event articles and write one-page reports on them.

Andrew Petroski, a senior enrolled in a home-school program, said "You can be full of facts, and not know a thing."

Various classmates shared this view. Sarcasm crept into her voice when Holman said, "Sure, I'm always gonna have to know what 'quasilegislative' is!"

by Jason Sturgeon

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Senior Carly Sandt concentrates on her government assignment with the free time given. Government class was a required course of every high school senior to graduate.

Mr. Ralph Mundt prepares for his third hour government course. Mundt was also the head coach of the boys swim team. (Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Students in Mrs. Donna Yaksic's 7/8 hour advanced Biology take notes. Many students took advanced classes to learn the most they could while in high school.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Mrs. Anne Frost does a proof on the board for her geometry class during third hour to help the students understand the proof.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

It All Adds Up

Math and science add up an important part in today's society from balancing a checkbook to finding a cure for all cancers.

Math and science are both used for jobs such as accounting, a medical field or even in a fast food restaurant.

Students use math and science in their jobs and for their savings and checking accounts.

Junior Frank Crowley said, "You need them [math and science] for everything."

Junior Melissa Virden said, "They're important to me because I know I need them for my career."

Students and teachers used math to help them in science or science to help them in math. Senior Kristen Behling said, "It helps because the two fields are interrelated."

Mr. M. Mundt said, "Absolutely, math and science are interrelated. The developing of science came from math. You start with math, then physics, chemistry and it all trickels with biology."

Mr. Joseph Sparacino said, "I think math is important in science because you use math. It's an important concept we use that will carry over to the science department, really it's vice-versa in Algebra II."

Some students didn't agree, and felt that the two fields did not help each other. It all depended on what science and math they were in and at what level.

Junior Samantha Hodsden said, "Earth science has no scientific equations, therefore Algebra II doesn't help."

By Stacy Lemley

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Mr. M. Mundt, a new math teacher, explains Algebra II equations to his class.

Dr. Jon Bertram writes on the chalkboard an old saying, "What you see is what you get," to teach his students an important lesson. Bertram and his Biology II classes dissected a fetal pig at the end of the third nine weeks.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Paying attention in their English class, juniors Syd Hodsden, Tony Banks, Stacy Durr, Lise Sarich and Chad Pio all look forward for the notes on the board. The class had to read "Paradise Lost" and write a follow-up paper on it.

(Photo by William Busch)

During his third hour Spanish 1 class, sophomore Aragon Mendez runs around the classroom for a project given by Indiana University graduate Miss Ginger Ingram. Ingram was a first-year teacher and taught in room 309.

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

Making the grade

Heart pounding, pencil scrbbling away, a student racks his brain on a term paper in his Engish class. Down the hall, beyond the perimeter of another classroom a student studies hard , trying diligently to remember the way to say, "to run" in Latin.

Counselors say both English and foreign languages can help students later in life. Not only can the classes get a student into college but they can also help in getting a person a job, whether the position needs someone with bilingual skills or not.

On average, most colleges require two to three years of foreign languge in high school and three to four years of English.

Counselors try to encourage students to take a foreign language class and to take all four years of English to better the student's education.

Many students enjoy their English class because it gives them a challenge.

Senior Leslie Nicholson said, "I've enjoyed my friends and all my teachers and enjoy English. Sometimes just having t brainstorm about things you usually don think about makes it fun. I like English an I do well in it."

Some students took foreign language t help them through high school and colleg

Junior Kim Spoa said, "I take a foreig language because it's fun , I like my teach and you never know when you may need it

By Derinda Smit

(Photo by William Busch)
Conversing in French, senior Jennifer Pollard and junior Kelly Shoup exercise their vocal abilities with Madame Sue McPherson. The foreign language classes got a chance to go to Spain, France and Italy for 11 days during Spring Break.

(Photo by William Busch)
Working on his "Brave New World" paper, senior Scott Jones writes as senior Leslie Sprague looks to the front of the class. The two seniors had English together in Mr. Jason Cope's first hour.

During athletic training class, sophomore Johnny Lewis works out. Students went to the weight room during class to strengthen muscles. Lewis was doing squats to strengthen his quadriceps.

Preparing to work out, junior Jamie Eierman and senior Tom Bonez stretch their Achilles tendons. Students in athletic training did various activities to increase their knowledge of the human body.

Setting the ball, junior Nathan Mundt and senior Ryan Kegley participate in an advanced gym class. Juniors and seniors were given several different types of electives they could take in physical fitness.

Learning to live healthy

A student crouches over a body sprawled out on a red tile floor. With a roll of gauze in one hand, a piece of wood just big enough for a person's forearm in the other and the voluntary "victim" on the floor, the student then begins to show the class how to splint a fracture.

Splinting is one of the major elements learned in athletic training. Students learned to prevent, recognize, treat and rehabilitate athletic injuries.

Mr. Dan "Doc" Merrill, health teacher and athletic trainer, said, "An athletic trainer is the go between or middle man, between coach and doctor. Students that take athletic training get a general knowledge of the human body and some general sports injuries that can occur. We discuss general rehabilitation exercises that prevent injury."

Other classes were offered that were similar to athletic training. These classes tried to create an "overall sense of well being and physical fitness" Mrs. Sandy Corso, a physical fitness teacher, said. One of these classes, gym, was a requirement to graduate.

Students who already had their two years of physical education but enjoyed the program could take advanced classes during their junior or senior years.

Junior Melissa Virden said, "I took advanced tennis so I could get better and try out to make the team."

Other classes, like the advanced gym classes, needed prerequisites before taking them. Health II, one of the new programs, taught students skills that would assist them in getting into a health career or training field.

Junior Jennifer Cloyd said, "I took Health II because I liked health, plus, I want to get involved in a health career."

By Derinda Smith

Part of the Crowd

With pencil held in the air above the paper, a student struggles to answer a question that a general education student probably would find easy.

This is one of the challenges that most of the LRE students faced. They also had to deal with things like physical challenges and not being accepted by general education students.

The Least Restricted Environment (LRE) Program was a program in which students with special needs were placed in classes with general education students. This allowed these students to participate in normal activities with high school friends. Mrs. Alicia Lasky, an LRE teacher, said, "This program increases general education students' awareness of the capabilities that special needs students have." Although the program does have many advantages, the students still have to face many challenges. Lasky said, "One of the biggest challenges these students face is people not expecting enough of them. They are able to excel if given an opportunity."

Another aspect of this program was the peer tutors. Peer tutors were general education students who spent their study halls working with the special needs students. Not only did they help the students with assignments, but they also provided encouragement. Peer tutors are extremely important to the program," Lasky said. "They assist students with work so they are able to participate in regular activities."

The students in the LRE program worked at functional assignments for daily living, such as telling time, taking language lessons, and going out into the community and learning about purchasing products in stores. The purpose of these assignments was to increase the students' independence.

"All of this accomplishes a great deal, Lasky said. "The students not only mature a great deal, become much more age appropriate, and gain a larger circle of friends, but they gain a great deal of independence."

Lasky said, "Working with these kids can be challenging, but the rewards are well worth it. It is a joy to see them accomplish all they are capable of."

By Mary Green

Senior Nick Kairis makes ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree. The ornaments were a project he completed in ceramics class.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Peer tutors junior Ashley Clements, senior Laura Cole and sophomore Mary Green make pumpkin bread. The bread, along with other goods, was sold at the LRE Christmas Bazaar in order to raise funds for LRE activities.

(Photo by Lauren McCall)

(Photo by Renee Johnson)

Senior Jeff Mann helps out in the laundry room by folding towels used by the swimming classes. Mann helped the physical education department every Friday.

Peer tutor junior Carlie Moore, one home Crystal Parish, makes a bio animal. The animal was used in a biology class.

(Photo by Lindsay Hope)

SSR: Reading to Succeed

It is Thursday morning, and students are filing into their second module classes. But instead of pulling out folders and homework, they open up tattered paperbacks and library books, and sit back to read.

The Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) program was unique to this school. It was a program in which, once a week, every Thursday, students spent 25 minutes reading whatever materials they wanted to read. Five minutes were subtracted from each class period (excepting first and second hour) to compensate for the 25 minutes spent participating in SSR before second module.

Some students really liked the program. Junior Rick Good said, "I enjoy the chance to just sit down and read for a while."

Some students liked the relaxation time, but would rather have used it as a study hall. Junior Jose Guttierrez said, "Its a waste of time for me. It would be more useful if I could do homework instead of reading."

Other students did not like the program at all. Senior April Koukol said, "It takes too much time, and I just end up bored because I don't like to read."

The teachers also had mixed feelings about the SSR program. Some thought it was a really good program. Physical education teacher Miss June Shiozaki said, "I like to read, so I like SSR, and although you can't get through to every student for the entire 25 minutes, the students it does expose to reading makes it worthwhile."

Other teachers liked the basic idea of the reading program, but still had problems with the way the program worked. Substitute teacher Mrs. Gina Easton said, "The idea is great, but I have problems getting the students to actually read."

Whether students loved the chance to just relax and read, or were bored stiff for 25 minutes straight, as Shiozaki said, "The program really serves its purpose."

By Mary Green

(Photo by Bill Busch)
Assistant principal Mr. Chris Evans reads "Henry and the Purple Crayon" in his office. Everyone in the building participated in SSR, including teachers and administrators.

Junior Joe Sullivan sits in the north cafeteria with his paperback. Students participated in the SSR program every Thursday after second period.

(Photo by Bill Busch)

nior Anke Naumann and juniors Shannon Imes and Jill
ray kick back and relax in the gymnastics room. When
SSR bell rang, students got out their reading materials
gardless of what class they had.

(Photo by Bill Busch)
Senior Natalie Sosa reads a newspaper in home economics class. During SSR, students read many forms of writing, including newspapers.

(Photo by Bill Busch)

In Mr. Bill Wilke's 4/5 hour leadership class, senior Jenny Simonski writes out her lesson plan for the next day in which she will ride the bus with her classmates to Kyle Elementary School where they will put their hard work to use.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Mr. Richard Sheare helps sophomore Keeley Mead create an armadillo out of clay

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Classes sculpt students lives

Whether you're the next Van Gogh or have yet to find your artistic talent, art classes may be for you. Or if you're interested in camp counseling and student teaching then join Mr. Bill Wilke's leadership class.

"There are many students who are very creative and talented in art. For some though their abilities may not be as strong; however, they still show a strong interest and cleverness," art teacher Ms. Annette Kulmatycki said.

Art classes worked on various projects that took the time ranging from one to three days up to two to three weeks. Kulmatycki, who has been teaching here for 13 years, began many new projects that she had never done in the past, ranging from picture parodies, to life-size sculptural origins, to dream interpretations.

"Often a student may think receiving credit in an art class is easier than an academic class, but find out that is not necassarily so," Kulmatycki said. Students not only worked on regular art projects but also learned about artists and art periods, plus sometimes it was just hard to get the creative juices flowing, even for students wanting to learn, let alone those who were hoping to "fly" through the course.

Art class helped students in many ways inside and outside of the classroom. It is a way for students to express themselves. "I like to use my mind to express myself through art," junior Mary Jones said. Art students learned about decision making, communication, and developed a better appreciation for art, like the work, thought, and planning that goes into it.

Like art classes, leadership class, which meets 4/5 hour, also helps students stay involved outside the classroom as well as in theirs and others.

Wilke has been the leadership teacher for five years now. He took over for Mrs. Benita Adkins who started the program here in 1968.

Leadership teaches high school students how to work with children. Each day in class students learn new games to teach and learn teaching techniques. Every Tuesday leadership students make lesson plans. On the following Wednesday the students get on a bus and put what they learn to good use when they cadet teach first, second, and third graders at Kyle Elementary School. They also learn essential camping skills and become camp counselors for a fifth grade two day camp.

To be in leadership class one must be an upperclassmen, be recommended by their teachers and have the heart and determination to learn and teach.

By Kathy Rea

In Mr. Richard Sheare's first-hour ceramic class, junior Heather Cascera makes a clay turtle as part of their assignment for the nine weeks.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

After teaching at Kyle Elementary School, junior Nathan Mundt fills out his report on how the day's events went, like leadership students have been doing since 1968 when Mrs. Benita Adkins started the program here.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Senoir Matt Ray begins to fill out his lesson plans before teaching at Kyle Elementary School on Wednesday. Leadership students spend the Tuesday before, creating a fun yet educational day for their students.

Working Ahead

Honors classes were available for students to take in a variety of classes like English Foreign Languages, U.S. history, bio II honors classes had many advantages for students who were interested. If a student earned a "C" or higher, his or her grade was raised a point. A "C" was three points, a "B," four points and an "A," five points.

Some students took more than one honors class.

Junior Jackie Mrak took French III honors, bio II honors and English II honors. Mrak said, "I think they're hard, but they prepare me for college classes."

Many students thought that honors classes had many benefits.

"I took them to receive a honors credit," junior Jim Lewis said.

Many teachers agreed that honors classes cover more things.

Mrs. Donna Yaksic said, "The advanced classes go faster, cover more things in more depth and do lots of writing."

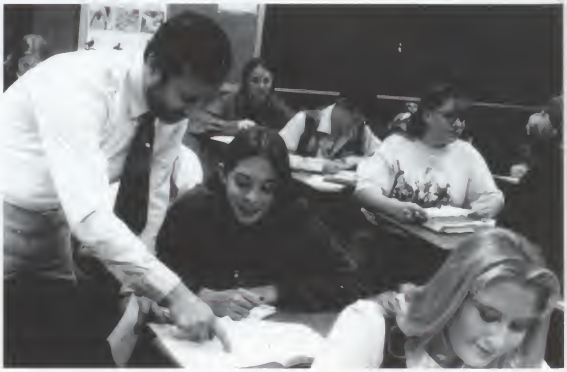
Some teachers thought that advanced classes went quickly.

Mr. Joseph Sparacino said, "We tend to cover material a little bit more in detail and more quickly."

Honors classes provided opportunities for students who were willing to work hard to learn more.

By Christina Kostelnik

Students in Mr. Douglas's U.S. history honors class listen to a lecture. Many students decided to take honors classes to receive an honors credit



Mr. Joseph Sparacino helps sophomore Kathleen Siminski with her classwork. Some students had the choice to take Algebra 2x.

Ms. Kathy Kotyuk sets the record player up for Macbeth. All students were required to read "Macbeth" during their junior year.

Mrs. Linda Peda explains an assignment to her Spanish III honors class. Students took honors classes to learn all they could about the class.

Speaking with a Purpose

Standing up at a podium and talking about a specific topic with sweat rolling down your forehead can be scary for some students, but others enjoy performing in speech and dramatics and say that it should be required for graduation.

Junior Cindy York said, "The fact of the point is that once in your life, you are going to have to speak in front of a lot of people and express your point of view."

Sophomore Megan Cleary said that you really need to know how to speak in front of people so you don't sound so jumbled and make a fool out of yourself.

There are many ways of practicing for a speech, such as practicing in front of a mirror, performing in front of friends and family or recording yourself on a tape player.

York said she prepares herself by giving her speech three to four times and memorizing most parts of it. Then she gets up in front of her mirror and gives it the way she would as if she were in class. "Then I give a copy of my speech to a family member and then they critique my performance," York said.

Junior Vonnie Loeffler, fellow classmate, said she sings her speech. "You can sing your speech dramatically to yourself so you can get the feeling of atmosphere."

Some students commented the dramatics in school and life coincide with speech as if they go hand-in-hand.

Junior Matt Atherton said, "When you learn how to speak, you can also learn how to dramatize anything you say."

York agreed by saying, "In both of the areas, you have to present yourself in a manner that everyone will understand what you are performing or speaking. Speech and drama go together when you're in a large setting what you do accounts for what will be remembered. They're both needed to succeed in the world."

By Joe Durk

(Photo by Phil Garcia)
Responding to a question from a classmate, sophomore Megan Nelson answers during her speech on sensationalism. Many students liked giving speeches because they said it was needed for life.

(Photo by Phil Garcia)

In Mr. Bill Bodnar's "Introduction to Dramatics" third hour class, sophomore Abby Kay prepares to give her required speech. With some form of speech class needed to graduate,it was suggested that the students take speech during their sophomore year.

(Photo by Phil Garcia)

ith a smile, sophomore Michelle Batista presents her speech uring her "Persoanl Interpretation" class. Some helpful hints e not to slur your speech and to have good eye contact.

(Photo by Phil Garcia)

During his "Personal Interpretation" class, junior Nathon Sisco gives his speech in front of his peers and teacher, Mr. Mark Karmel. Sisco said his best way to practice is to make an outline and review it with friends and family.

Senior Michelle Click looks up a student's schedule in main office B. Students who worked as T.A.s helped out secretaries by doing jobs like delivering messages and getting homework assignments from teachers.

Junior Melissa Mongoven finishes her homework during her studyhall. Students read, slept or were T.A.s during their studyhalls.

Study Time

Study halls might not seem like they were important but for some students study halls gave them opportunities to do a variety of activities like read and do homework.

Many students were guidance, office, media, or T.A.s during their study halls. Junior Nissa Svantner said, "I graded papers, delivered messages and other small jobs."

Some students kept busy by sending messages to other staff members. "I ran around the whole school giving messages to other staff members," senior Lindsay Saviola said.

Teacher Assistants were important to the staff members they helped out. Office secretary Mrs. Sandy Herr said, "We relied on our T.A.s to deliver messages, get homework assignments and do other tasks."

Some students used their study halls to get homework finished.

Freshman Tony Chapman said, "I did my homework and read."

Other students decided to rest. "I did my homework and sleep," freshman Ryan Horner said.

Most students did similiar things during their studyhall. Junior Jim Lewis said, "In study hall I read and slept." Others chose to do nothing.

"I didn't do anything in my studyhall," freshman Stephanie Wilcox said.

Students did many different tasks during their study halls. While some students might not have done as much, others completed homework, read, were T.A.s, or did other similar activities.

By Christina Kostelnik

Junior Matt Atherton concentrates on his homework in the commons during study hall. Many students took study halls to complete their homework.

Seniors Tim Slamkowski and Mike Foley file during their study hall as T.A.s in the attendance office. Many students chose to be T.A.s during their study halls.

Generation Connection

(Photo by Cheryl Banke)

Senior Jeff King looks over statistics of the varsity boys' basketball team at the sectional game while senior Mike Krueger wonders why the referee's decision was so questionable. King said his most memorable moment in high school would be performing in "Godspell" while Krueger said he helped tremoundously with the Pro-Diversity rally in May.

IT'S *All* Connected

During their French class, junior Kelly Shoup and senior Jennifer Pollard converse about their plans for the weekend. Many friendships were formed when different grade levels were thrown into the same class.

While on the balancing beam during gymnastics practice, freshman Jacki Frechette contemplates her next move. Some freshmen usually said they had no problem with moving to a bigger school, except that they just got lost once in a while.

Vahona Aimutis

Bryan Anderson
Marching Band 1,3, Lab Band 1,2,3, Pep Band 1,2

Shawn Arden

Sonny Armato
Peer Tutor 1, T.A. 4, Football 1,2, Basketball 1,3, Baseball 1,2,3,4, Outstanding Young Man 4

Joseph Auskalnis





Brandon Austin

Robert Bacon

Brett Baker

Alicia Balazs
Student Council 3,4, NHS 3,4, Quill & Scroll 3,4, Legend Assistant Editor 1,2,3,4, Prom Committee 3, T.A. 4, Swimming 1,2, Athletic Trainer 3

Cheryl Banke
Quill & Scroll President 2,3,4, Pow Wow Editor-in-chief 2,3,4, Peer Tutor 4, Teacher Assistant 3,4, U.S. Fair Play Ambassador at World Cup Game





Jeremy Barker

Juliana Barros

Jennifer Bartley

Andrea Batista
NADFESTOP 2, Student Court 2,3,4, Pep Club 1,2, Spanish Club 2, German Club 2, Hope Club 2, Unity Club President/Founder 2,3,4, NHS 3,4, FLHS 3,4, Speech and Debate 4, T.A. 3, Concert Orchestra 1

Brian Bauer
NADDNTOP 2, Chinese Club 3,4, T.A. 4





Chris Bauknecht
Thespians 4, JROTC 4, T.A. 4

Kristin Behling

Randall Berry

Cynthia Bickham
French Club 1,2,3,4, Chinese Club 3,4, NHS 3,4, Choraliers Secretary 3,4, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3,4

Kristy Bilderback
T.A. 1,3,4





Timothy Bingham
Swimming Captain 1,2,3,4

Michelle Blackburn
Latin Club 2,3,4

Kaimi Blaha
Thespians Co-President 2,3,4, NHS 3,4, T.A. 3,4, Choraliers 1,2, Symphonic Choir Secretary 1,2,3,4, Academic Letter

Timothy Blouir
Wrestling 2,3,4

Thomas Bonez
Prom Court 3, Football Captain 1,2,3,4, Basketball 1,2,3, Baseball 1,2,3,4





Christopher Bonner

Michelle Brigham
Hope Club 4, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 2,3,4, Two Academic Letters, Band Letter

Janel Brink

Karl Brown
NHS 3,4, Peer Tutor 3,4, Pep Band 3, Jazz Band 1,3,4, Jazz Band 2,2, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Concert 1,2, Lab Band 2 1 Academic Letter

Kevin Brown
Marching Band Trumpet Section Leader 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Jazz Band 1 4, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Concert Orchestra 3, Symphonic Orchestra 4, Lab Band 1 1, Lab Band 2 2, Intramurals 2,3,4





Planning for tomorrow

Upon graduation, seniors are faced with a whole new world of decisions. Some are as minor as deciding where to go after the ceremony, others are as important as deciding where to go to college, or even whether or not to go to college at all. But many seniors agree that its a good idea to have some kind of plans made before graduation.

Some seniors have a general idea of where they want to live. Senior Bridgette Swab said, "I might live in New Orleans or South Carolina."

Other seniors weren't quite sure where they wanted to live, but they knew where they didn't want to be. Senior Melissa Holland said, "Twenty years from now I'm not sure where I will be, but I will not be in Portage."

Some seniors also have a general idea of what kind of education and career they want to pursue. Swab said, "In 20 years I plan to have a career in the medical field."

So while some seniors may make plans including detailed information, and others may have just a vague idea of where they may choose to be, most seniors go far enough to make one prediction. Holland said, "I know that no matter where I am, I will be happy."

By Mary Green

Senior Scott Curran goes for a touchdown at a football game. Seniors made up about one third of the varsity football team.

Michele Brown
SHS 3,4, Pow Wow, Entertainment Editor 3,4, FFA 4, Quill & Scroll Treas. Spotlight Editor 3,4, Who's Who Among American High School Students

David Brubaker
Prom Court Prince 3, Homecoming Court 3, Teacher Assistant 2,3,4, Track 2, Intramurals 1, Outstanding Young Man 4

Jennifer Buergler
Student Council 1,2,3, FFA 1,2, Pep Club 3, Quill & Scroll 2,3,4, Legend 1,2,3,4, Saga 4, FFA 4, Basketball 1,2,3, Track 2,3,4, PomPoms 4, Athletic Trainer 3

Jacqueline Builta

Duston Bullard

Ryan Burton

Jesseme Bysong

Catherine Campbell

Jamie Campbell
FFA 3,4

Maria Cantu
Concert Orchestra 1,2,3,4










Jennifer Cap

Andrea Cardenas

Rodney Carnahan
FFA 3,4

David Casillas
Tennis 1,2,3,4, Intramurals 1,2,3,4

Tony Castillo
Football 3,4





Judith Castro
Student Council Honorary Member 4, Thespians VP 2,3,4, Pep Club 4, FHA 3, Choraliers VP 1,2, Symphonic Choir Secretary President 1,2,3,4

Lisa Chasko

Brian Chelich
Choraliers 1,2, Concert Choir 1,2,3, Symphonic Choir 2,3, Track 4, Intramurals 1,2,3

Karl Cheng

Sergey Chernov
Swimming 4

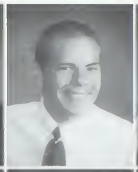




Senior Candace Richardson fills out a schedule board during third period. Richardson was a teacher's assistant for math teacher Mrs. Kathy Shrader.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)




Christopher Childers

Aaron Chinn
NHS 3, 4 FA 3, Basketball 3, Trigonometry 3, 4 Academic Letter

Joseph Christian
Tee Tutor 1,2,3, Homecoming Escort 8, 9, 10, 11, Football Captain 1,2,3,4, Intramurals 1,2,3,4

Eric Christy

Kimberly Cipich
Prom Committee 3, Homecoming Escort 1 Cross Country 3, 4, Track 1,3





Jessica Circle

Kathy Claudio
FA 3, 4, Symphonic Orchestra 3, 4, Cross Country 1

Derek Clem

Kelly Clendaniel
Video Club 1 Thespians 1 JROTC 2 Peer Tutor 4

Michelle Click
SADD/TEAM 1, Pep Club 1, Prom Committee 3 FA 2,3,4, Lab Band 2 1 2, Softball 1





Kelly Clouse

Amanda Cohen
Student Council 4, Thespians Secretary 3, 4, Pep Club 1, German Club 1, Chinese Club 3, 4 NHS 3,4, Choralers VP/President 2,3,4, Symphonic Choir 2,3,4, Junior Miss Finalist Girls Glee Club 1

Mauro Colunga
Writer's Block 3,4

Susan Corley
Thespians 3,4, NHS 4, Choralers 3, Symphonic Choir 2,3,4, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4 Lab Band 2,3,4

Martin Costello
FA 1, Football 1,2,3,4, Track 2 3, Tutors

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Senior Chris Whitten crunches numbers in Accounting 2. This class was created to prepare students for a career in the mathematically advanced accounting field.

Seniors Heather Smith and Tina Fingerhoot stand at a locker. Lockers were one of the places students congregated to socialize during passing periods.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Eric Cox

Daniel Crawford
Video Club 2, Writer's Block 4, T.A. 3, Lab Band I 1, Lab Band 2 2, Football Manager 1

Kelly Creech
JROTC 1,2,3,4, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3,4, Roadrunner Award, Team Commander (Girls Unarmed)

Robert Crews

Christie Crider

Richard Crider

Jerry Criswell

Melissa Cronch
T.A. 3

Catherine Crowley

Kevin Crownover

Staffan Dahlberg

James Daniel
JROTC 3,4

Erica Davis
T.A. 3,4, Super Kid Award

Sean Davis-Cohen

Mark Dean
German Club 1, Peer Tutor 1,2,3,4, Concert Choir 1, Wrestling 1





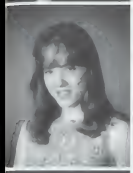
Jeremy DeHaven
NHS 3,4. Peer Tutor 2, 3, 4. 3,4. Concert Orchestra 1. Football 1,3,4. Baseball 1,2,3,4. Two Academic Letters

Kimberly DeJesus
Pep Club 3,4. Spanish Club 3,4. T.A. 4. Draw Club 2. Gifted and Talented Art Program 1,2

Matthew Demko
Saga 1. Peer Tutor 4

Anthony Deperio

Kevin DeVries
Football 1,2,3,4. Basketball 1,2





Sara DeWitt

Sara Dexter
JROTC Drill Team/Colorguard/Unarmed Exhibition/Female Armed Exhibition/JDR Platoon/JDR Squad/JDR Squad Commander/JDR Platoon Commander/Academic Team/Best Drill Cadet1,2,3,4. Peer Tutor 4. Pep Band 1. Concert Band 2. Symphonic Band 3,4. Concert Orchestra 2. Symphonic Orchestra 3,4. Lab Band 1

Jeromie Disser
T.A. 3. Swimming 1,3,4. Track 2. Volleyball 1

Nicole Domenech
BPA 3,4. President, Roadrunner

Richard Dowden

David Dozier
Teacher Assistant 2,3,4

Cristal Durfee
French Club 1,2. Chinese Club 3. Teacher Assistant 2,3. Concert Choir 1. Marching Band. Outstanding Sophomore 1,2,3. Girls Glee 2,3. Pep Band 1,2. Concert Band 3. Lab Band 1,2. Two Academic Letters

Christopher During

Will Edmonds
Intramurals 1,2

Stacey Ellerman
T.A. 2,3,4. Concert Band 2. Symphonic Band 3. Concert Orchestra 1. Symphonic Orchestra 2,3. Lab Band 2 1. Softball 1. Intramurals 1,2,3,4

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Seniors Michael Hatala, Derek Hart, and Alan Washburn stand in the commons on pajama day. Pajama day was one of the themes that was part of homecoming spirit week.

Kevin Elliott
Concert Band 1,2, Symphonic Band 3,4
Kristy Elsey
Elsie Espinoza
James Espinoza
Student Council 4, FLHS 3,4, Homecoming Court 4, Concert Orchestra 1, Football Manager 1,3, G. Basketball Manager 3,4, Baseball 1, Softball 4, Track 3, Academic Letter 3,4
Frank Essany
Peer Tutor 4, T.A. 2,4, Choraliers 1,2,3, Concert Choir 1,2,3,4, Symphonic Choir 1,2,3,4, Solo & Ensemble 1,2,3,4.





Kelly Fallon
Student Council 1, 2, 3, SADD/STOP 1, Pep Club 2, 3, 4, Homecoming Court 4, Prom Committee 3, Pom Pons 2,3,4.
Susan Fancher
Track 3
Melissa Fekete
Stacy Fenchak
SADD/STOP 1, Pep Club1, T.A 1,2,3,4
Shawn Fidler





Heather Fields
Peer Tutor 1,2,3,4
Jonathan Fields
Lisa Fields
Tina Fingerhoot
Frances Fink
Pep Club 1, BPA 4, Peer Tutor, 1,2 T.A. 2,3,4, Soccer Manager 3





Kristine Flick
Michael Foley
Norman Ford
Giannina Fornari
Jennifer Fox
Marching Band 1,2,3,4 Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Jazz Band 1-3, Jazz Band 2 2, Concert Band 1,2 Symphonic Band 3,4, Orchestra Winds 3,4, Pit Orchestra 3,4
Captain





Seniors Chris Spurrier and David Brubaker and other contestants, get physically fit before their big debut in the Outstanding Young Man contest. Many male seniors competed in the Outstanding Young Man for scholarships and for the fun.





Chad Franks
Student Council 3, NHS 3,4, 3,4, 3,4, Swimming 1,3,4
Volleyball Manager 1,2,3,4, Swimming Captain
Michael Frederick
Latin Club 1,2,3, Peer Tutor 1, I.A. 3,4, Intramural Bowling 3,4
Aaron Galindo
Isela Galindo
Elizabeth Garner
Student Council 4, NHS 3,4, I.A. 1,2,3,4, Volleyball 1,2, Basketball 1, Softball 1,2





Daniel Garus
Nicole Gass
I.A. 1,2,3,4, Gymnastics 1,2,3,4
Elizabeth George
Chad Gerhart
Academic Letter 3,4
Joseph Giangiulio
Basketball 1,2, Baseball 1,2, Intramurals 3





Wendy Gilbert
Pep Club 2,3,4, I.A. 1,2,3,4, Pom Pons 2,3, Cheerleading 3
Jennifer Gilmer
Kari Glans
Soccer 3,4
Helena Golarz
Swimming 1,2,3,4
Alexander Gonzalez

Senior Stacey Fenchak gets suited up for cap and gown measurements. The seniors got an early start for their graduation by placing cap and gown orders.

During the homecoming parade down Central Avenue, senior Trisha Martin rides in a convertable Chevy Camaro for her nomination as homecoming queen.

Sarah Gorski
Heather Granzow
Prayer Club 2,4, NHS 3,4, Peer Tutor 1, Speech and Debate 2,3,4, Concert Choir 1, Speech Treasurer/VP/President
George Graves
JROTC 1
Elijah Gray
Samantha Greenwell
T.A. 4, Intramurals 3,4





Phillip Grigalanz
Mark Gronek
Michael Grutsch
Christopher Gulbransen
JROTC 2
Michael Gurevitz



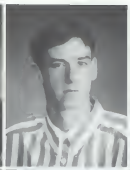


Michael Guth
Angela Gutierrez
Jason Hallenbeck
Rebecca Hamstrom
NHS 3,4, FLHS 2,3,4, Jazz Band 1,3, Jazz Band 2 2, Symphonic Band 1,2,3,4, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3
Susan Hamstrom
NHS 3,4, Marching Band 1,2, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 2,3, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3,4









Michael Hansell
Nicole Hardaway
Saga 4, T.A. 1,3,4
Michael Harkins
Derek Hart
Thespians 4, Spanish Club 1, Science Club 3, National Honor Society 3,4, Jazz Band I 2,3,4, Jazz Band II 1, Concerr Band I 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Intramurals 3,3,4
Michael Hartman





Kimberlee Haskell
Peer Tutor 1,2,3,4, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 2, Concerr Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band I 1, Lab Band II 2
Tami Hasse
Jason Hastings
Michael Hatala
Student Court 4, NHS 4, Foreign Language Honor Society 2,3,4, Lab Band 2, Academic Letter 3,4
Tabitha Henderson
BPA 1, Concerr Orchestra 1,2,3,4





Joseph Henry
Nathaniel Henson
Spanish Club 1, T A 3, Football 1, Basketball 1,2,3,4, Tennis 2,3
Christina Hernandez
Latin Club 3,4, JROTC 1, BPA 1,4
Cynthia Hernandez
Peter Hernandez





Kely Hill
Student Council Treasurer 1, Pep Club 1,2, Peer Tutor 2,3, Prom Court 2,3, T A 3, Concert Choir 1, Cheerleading 1,2, Fitness Scholarship, Drama "Annie," "Prime of Miss Jean Brodie"
Kevin Hilley
T.A. 1,2,3,4, Football 1,2,3,4
Nichole Hilzley
Megan Hodges
Peer Tutor 1,2, T A 1,4, Lab Band I 1,2,3, Pep Band 1
William Hoffmann

Senioritis Takes Over

Seniors tend to get "Senioritis" through their last year of high school, which is when the seniors start to get lazy on doing their homework, grades start to slip and ditching starts to become a weekly thing.

Senior Jennifer Watson said, "Schools boring! I don't want to be here anymore; I want to get out! I've been here for too long."

Senior Curtis Smith said, "I have no desire to come to school."

Seniors have many things to do, in just a little amount of time. For example, they have SAT's, ACT's, college forms to fill out, deciding whether or not to graduate midterm and many other important duties.

Watson said, "Yes, she [Ms. Pamela Downard] is helpful with filling applications out and getting college information."

Senior Curtis Smith said, "Yes. Mrs. Downard is great. She really helped me a lot in getting college applications in and getting everything ready for college."

The guidance counselors give suggestions to the students, suggesting a major that best fits the individuals curriculum. They also try to get the students to fill out college applications when it's the time. Some students are excited to get into college and to get on with their

Senior Kris Santonelli said, "Yes, I'm anxious to go to college. I'm looking forward to becoming a pharmacist. I'm finally going to fulfill my goal. Plus there are only 2-3 days a week of school."

Senior Joe Auskalnis said, "Yes veery much. Because I'm real anxious to get going with music after high school."

The seniors have a lot to look forward to, the rest of their life depends on their final decisions.

By Stacy Lemley

Ronald Holland
James Holman
SADD/STOP 2, T.A. 3
Jami Holman
Jonathan Hoover
Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 2,3,4, State Solo Ensemble 1,2,3,4, State Solo Ensemble 1st Place 1,2,3,4, Foreign Orchestra/Winds 1, Symphonic Orchestra/Winds 2,3,4, Superbowl-Fine Arts 3,4.
Christopher Huerta

Jessica Hufford
FCA 2,3, NHS 4, Volleyball 1,2, Basketball 1, Tennis 2,3,4, Boys Tennis Manager, Tennis Captain, Intramurals 2,3, Tennis MVP, Most Improved, Best Singles Record.
Kenneth Hyde
David Ilgen
JROTC 1, Football 1, Building Trade 3,4
Larry Jacobs
Shawna Jacobs
T.A. 3,4

Kimberly Jakob
Foreign Language Honor Society 3, Concert Orchestra 1,2,3, Tennis 1,2,3,4, Varsity Letter
Renata Jefimenko
SADD/STOP 1,2, Spanish Club 1,2,3,4, German Club 1,2,3,4, President, Hope Club 1,2,3, Unity Club 2, National Honor Society 3,4, Saga 4, Concert Orchestra 1
Heather Johnston
Jennifer Johnston
Carrie Jones
Peer Tutor 2,3,4, T.A. 1,3,4

Dustin Jones
Jennifer Juhasz
SADD/STOP 1, JROTC 2,3, Peer Tutor 1, T.A. 3,4
Gregory Kaletta
Nicholas Karris
T.A. 3, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Lab Band 2,1,2,3,4, Special Olympics 1,2,3,4, International Gold Medal Swimmer
Edmon Karsten
Wrestling 3, Intramurals 4




















Seniors Jeff Levenda and Alan Washburn find facts for their term papers in the East Media Center. This term paper played a major part of their composition grade.

Michael Kelley
FLHS 3,4, T.A. 3,4.
Shane Kelley
Perfect Attendance 1,2,3, Wrestling.
Megan Kester
NHS 3,4, FLHS 3,4, T.A. 4, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Lab Band 2.
Jeffrey King
Student Council 4, FCA 4, Spanish Club 2, NHS 3,4, FLHS 2,3,4, Tennis 1,2,3,4, Captain.
Tiffany Kirchner
NHS 3,4, Jazz Band 1,4, Jazz Band 2,3, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3,4

Margaret Kirk
Student Council 1,2, Pep Club 1,2, NHS 4, Cheerleading 1,2.
Tammy Kiser
SADD/STOP 1,2,3, Prom Committe 3, Girls Glee Club 2,3, Concert Choir 1
Beth Klakoski
French Club 3, Chinese Club 4, Swimming 1,2,3,4.
Peter Klassen
Peer Tutor 1, T.A. 2,4
Bryce Klimek

Monika Klys
Todd Kobitz
Jason Kriess
Writers Block 3, Saga 3,4, T.A. 3
Michael Krueger
NHS 4, FLHS 3, T.A. 3,4, Baseball 3,4, Basketball 3, Tennis 3,4, Intramurals 4, Academic Letter 3,4, All Area Baseball 3
Patricia Kubeck
SADD/STOP 2, Peer Tutor 4

Charles Kukla
Jason Lach
Stacy Lauper
SADD/STOP 2,3, FLHS 3, Prom Committee 3, Lab Band 1 1, Lab Band 2 2, Academic Letter 3,4
Brian Lazinski
Stacy Lee

Robert Lemon
Football 4, Lifter 4
Amanda Lemond
T.A. 2,3,4, Concert Choir 1,2, Athletic Trainer 2
James Lenburg
Teri Lesko
Concert Choir 1, Matching Band 1,2, Pep Band 3, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band 1 1, Lab Band 2 2
Jeffrey Levenda
Student Council 2, NHS 4, FLHS 3,4, Homecoming Court 4, T.A. 1,2,3,4, Football 1,2, Wrestling 1, Academic Letter 4, Ultimate Physic Classic, 1st place, Mr. Indiana, 5th place, Mr. Indiana Nationals, 3rd place
Traci Lewis
Ricky Littlefield
Kelli Livingston
Peer Tutor 1,2, T.A. 1,2,3
Daniel Lomax
Jennifer Lorance
Latin Club 1,2,3, Legend 1,2, T.A. 4, Swimming 2,3,4, Softball Manager 1, Academic Letter 3,4

ior Tiffany Mendenhal concentrates on her ke-up test. Most seniors had a busy senior year.

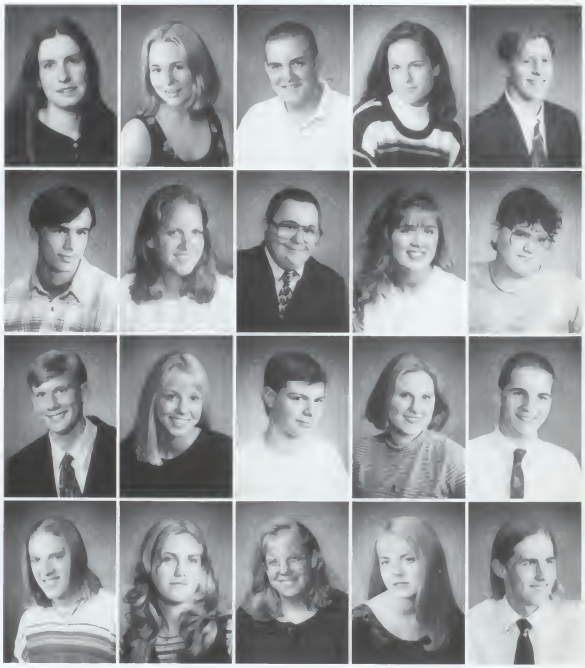
Christie Lovings
NHS 3,4, FLHS 2,3,4, T.A. 4, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 2,3, Volleyball 1,2,3,4, Captain, Basketball 1, Softball 1,2,3,4, Intramurals 2,4, Academic Letter 3,4

Jennifer Low

Patrick Lynch
T.A 1,2,3
Baseball 1,2,3,4

Brenda Manion

Andrew Mann



Jason Manna

Abigail Marcinkovich
Chinese Club 3,4,FLHS 2,3,4, Soccer 3,4

Jeffrey Marrs
T.A. 3, Intramurals 3,4, Special Olympics 1,2,3,4

Trisha Martin
Student Council 1,2,3,4, Pep Club 2, Prom Court 3, Homecoming Court 3,4, Cross Country 1

Shannon Martinez

Eric Mason
Student Council 1,2,3,4presSADD/STOP 3,4, pres .Span Club 2,3,pres 4, Science Club 3, Hope Club 3, NHS 3,4, FLHS 4, Tennis 1,2,3,4,captain Varsity Letter 3, Academic Letter 2, All-State Doubles Player, All-Duneland Conference

Kelly McAllister
Softball 1,2,3,4

Michael McBride
T.A. 1,2,3,4

Lauren McCall

Shaun McCance
German Club 1,2,3,4, President, Writer's Block 3, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Speech and Debate 3,4, Marching Band Section Leader, Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 3, Lab Band 2 1,2, Academic Team 3,4, Academic Team Captain, Foreign Exchange Germany,

Joshua McCaslin

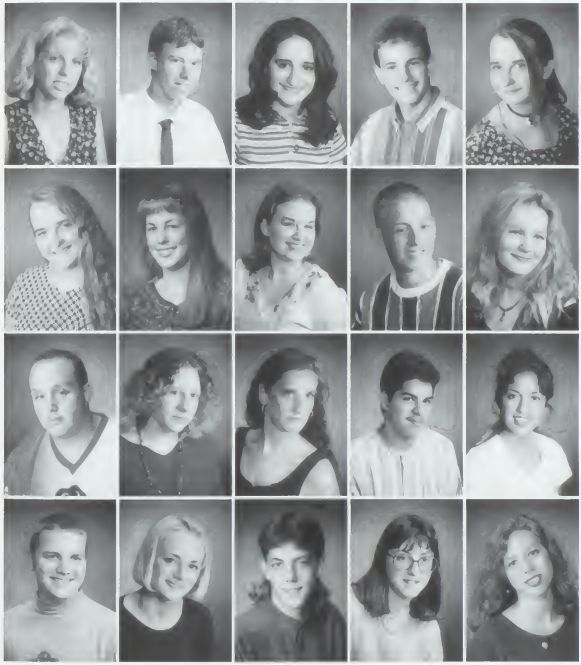
Jennifer McCulloch

Holly McCune

Rebecca McDougal

Ryan McGuire

Senior Steve Brajski does work at the media center during his study hall. Many students were some type of aide on their studyhall.



Jodie McHargue
Robert McKay
Carmen McKee
Mark McKinney
Michele McLean

Nicole McLean

Angela McWhirter
JROTC 1, Softball 1,2,3,4, Basketball 1,2,3, Volleyball 1,2,3,4, T.A. 2,4, Lab Band 2 1,2, Softball Captain

Kirstin Mead
NHS 3,4, Academic Letter 3,4, T.A. 3,4, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, SCAT 4

David Meade

Sherry Meeks
Peer Tutor 2, Concert Choir 1

Steven Meeks
Peer Tutor 4, T.A. 2,3.

Tracy Melcher

Courtney Melvin

Ruben Mendez
Concert Choir 1, Symphonic Choir 3,4

Tiffany Mendizabal
Pep Club 1,3,4, Peer Tutor 3, Prom Committee 3, Prom Court 3, T.A. 2,3,4, Softball 1,2,3, Pom Poms 3,4, Cheerleading 1

William Mick
German Club 2,3, Latin Club 4, Writer's Block 3,4, Saga 4, Marching Band 4, Winterguard 4

Rebecca Miles

Craig Miller

Tiffany Miller
T.A.,4, Lab Band 1 1

Jaime Monhaut

Heather Monti
Richard Morgan
David Morris
Nick Morris
Kimberly Moseley
Student Council 1, SADD/STOP 1, Pep Club 1, T.A.1,3,4, Basketball 1,2, Track 1, Junior Miss Spirit Award

Matthew Movre
Peer Tutor 1, Football 1,2, Wrestling 1-2,3, Lab Band 1

Kimberly Mrak
SADD/STOP 2, Spanish 1,2,3,4, German Club 1,2,3,4, Secretary Hope Club 2,3, Unity Club 2,3, NHS 3,4, FLDO 2,3,4, Saga 4, T.A.2,4, Lab Band 2, 1

Jessica Mundell
Student Council 1,2,3,4,Pep Club 1,2,3,4, treas., Prom Committee 3, Prom Court 3, Homecoming 3, Concert Orchestra 1, Symphonic Orchestra 2, Soccer 3,4, Tennis 1,2, Cheerleading 1,2,3,4, Junior Treas. Student Council VP 4,

Annette Munoz
, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Jazz Band 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Orchestra 2,3,4, Tennis 1,2,3,4, Marching Band Drum Major 3,4, Varsity Tennis 3,4

Nicholas Munoz
FCA 3,4, NHS 3,4, FFHS 3,4, Cross Country 1,2,3,4, Track 1,2,3,4

Sarah Murphy
NHS 3,4, T.A.3,4, Tennis 1,2,3,4, Boys Tennis Manager 3

Erika Murrow
Anke Naumann
Basketball 4
Wendy Neeley
Bridgette Nelson

Senior Elizabeth Slatton gives a speech during the honor society induction. The honor society inducted eligible juniors and seniors.





David Nelson
Latin Club 4, NHS4, Academic Letter 3,4

Jaime Neyhart
Concert Orchestra 1

Timothy O'Neal
Soccer 1,2,3,4

Sherry Oboyle

Thomas Orange





Gena Ortiz
Pep Club 1,4, BPA4, Prom Committee 4, T. A 3,4, Bass Pro 3,4

John Ortiz
Video Club 1,2,3,4, T.A. 3,4

Samantha Ortman
Latin Club 2,3, Legend 4, T.A. 4

Terrence Oslizlo
JROTC 1,2,3,4, T.A. 4, Football 1, Exhibition Squad Commander, Exhibition Duet Commander, Training

Kathryn Ostertag
Science Club 2,3,4, NHS 3,4, T.A. 3, Symphonic Orchestra 1,2,3,4, Swimming 1,2,3,4, Swimming Captain, Academic Letter 3,4

Heather Owens

Robert Ozbolt
Baseball 1,2,3

Joseph Ozug
Teacher Assistant 1,2, Concert Choir 1, Symphonic Choir 2,3,4

Daniel Paniaguas

Loretta Parduhn





Jeremiah Parker

Erica Parsley

Nikil Patel
Tennis 1,2, Intramurals 1,2

Scott Pawlick

Rebekah Pelke
SADD/STOP 2,3,NHS3, Legend 4, T.A.3,4, Basketball 1, Track 1,2,3,4





Jodi Penland
T.A. 2,3

Adrian Perez

Adriana Perez

Doris Perez
JROTC 1,3,4, T.A.3, Concert Choir 1,2, Girl's Glee Club 4

Ruben Perez





Andrew Petroski

Karen Piatek
T.A. 3, Concert Choir 3, Girls Glee Club 4

Nathan Pickett

Amy Pierce

Michael Pierce

Planning the Future

During their senior year, seniors had many decisions to make. College and career choices along with SATS and ACTS and filling out college applications were just a few things that seniors had to do before they left high school. All these things made a busy senior year for most seniors.

Most seniors planned on going to college. Senior Brandie Rootkie said," I plan to go to Purdue and major in business manangement."

Some people had similar plans for their future. "I'm going to Sawyer Business College to become legal secretary," senior Lindsay Saviola said.

Many students had their career choices already picked out. Senior Nancy Rivera said," I'm going to Purdue North Central to enter the pre-vetinarian field."

Although their last year of high school was a busy one, most of the senior class enjoyed their last year of high school and were ready for college.

By: Christina Kostelnik

Sabrina Pierce

David Pioch
German Club 2,4. T.A. 4

Ian Pittman
Football 1,2,3,4. Wrestling 1,2,3,4

Julia Plunkett
SADD/STOP 4. German Club 3,4. Writer – Block 3,4. NHS 4. Saga 2,3,4. Soccer 4. Soccer Captain.

Jennifer Pollard

Shana Pollock

Robin Popp

Melissa Popple
Athlenc Trainer 3

Ryan Press

Jill Priest
SADD/STOP 3. Prom Committee 3. T.A. 3,4. Marching Band 1. Lab Band 1 1,2,3

Chris Psihogios
SADD/STOP 2. Tann Club 1. Science club.3 A.3,4. Golf 1,2,3,4

Dione Pulsoni
Student Council 2,3. French Club 1. Latin Club 2,3. Prom Committee 3. T.A.1,2,3,4. Academic Letter 3

Jeremy Putman
Peer Tutor 4. T.A. 4. Football 4. Track 4. Wrestling 4. Lifter 4

Christy Ramian

Berry Randall

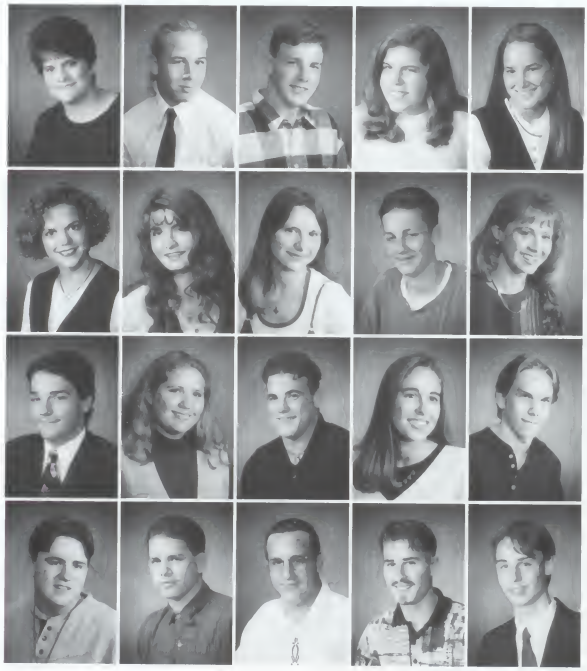
Matthew Ray
T.A. 2,3,4. Basketball 1. Intramurals. Honor Roll Accumulative GPA 3.0

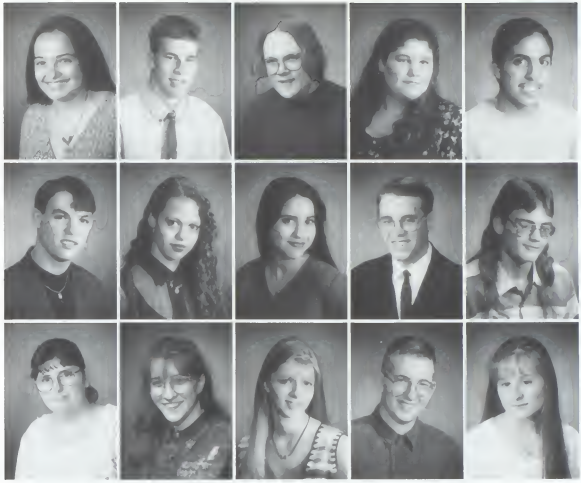
Robert Ray

Ryan Reber
Concert Band 2,3. Symphonic Band 4. Lab Band 2 1

Robert Reed

Steven Renner





Michelle Revoir
Cross Country 2,3, Volleyball (Basketball (Softball))

David Reynolds

Kevin Rhodes

Candice Richardson
T.A.2,3,4

Delfin Rios III

Vincen Ritchie

Nancy Rivera
JROTC 1,2, Track 2,3

Danette Rodriguez

Marcus Rogala

Heath Rogers

Christina Ronk

Brandie Rootkie
Latin Club 2, NHS 3,4, T.A. 4, Swimming 1,2,3,4, Swimming Captain, Swimming Mental Attitude Award.

Shannon Rose
Marching Band 2, Concert Band 3, Symphonic 4, Lab Band 1, Lab Band 2

Theodore Rosenquist
FLHS 1, T.A.4, Intramurals 1,2,4, Road Runner 3

Joan Rouse

Senior Tina Fingerhoot participates in the fall homecoming parade. Fingerhoot was one of five girls nominated for fall homecoming queen.

Christopher Rowland

April Russ
Latin Club 1,3, JROTC 1,2,3,4, NHS 3,4, TA 1,4, JROTC operations officer

Shawn Russum

Inna Ryazanova

Jennifer Sako
TA 4, Athletic Trainer 2,3,4

Laura Salyer
BPA 4, Peer Tutor 1, TA 4

John Sams
Football 1

Ryan Samuels

Irvin Santana

Kristina Santonelli
Student Council 3,4, Hesperians 1,2,3,4, Latin Club 1,2, NHS 3,4, Choraliers 3, Symphonic Choir 3,4, Girls Glee 1,2, Academic Letter 3, Academic Honors Diploma, Academic Hall of Fame, Choir Letter, Senior Class Treasurer, Musicals 1,2,3,4

Lindsay Saviola
BPA 4, TA 1,4

Kevin Sawyer

Jennifer Scegiel
Student Court 4, NHS 3,4, FHBs 2,3,4, Marching Band 1,2,3, Pep Band 1,2, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band 2 1,2, Track 1,2,3, Academic Letter 3,4, Salutorian

Traci Schmal

Michael Scheider

Carrie Schnelle
Hope Club 4, Concert Choir 1, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Girls Glee Choir 3,4, Pep Band 3,4, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band 1 1, Lab Band 2 2, Band Letter

Julie Scholz
BPA 4, Peer Tutor 4, Concert Choir 1,2, Girls Glee Club 3,4

Sean Scott

Amy Scribner

Eric Serrano
Science Club 2,3,4, NHS 4, TA 3, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2,3, Jazz Band 1 4, Jazz Band 2 2,3, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Lab Band 3 2, Baseball 1,2

During third hour senior Toby Wilson does his homework for Accounting 3.















Lana Siegel

Jennifer Siminski

Brian Sims

Antony Singleton

Jason Skolak
Track 1,2,3,4. Track captain 2 years.

Timothy Slamkowski
FCA 4, NHS 3, TA 3,4, Swimming 1,2,3,4, Baseball 1, Swimming captain

Elizabeth Slatton
Student Council 4, SADD/STOP 3,4, Pep Club 1,2, NHS 3,4, HHS 2,3,4, Prom Committee, TA 3,4, Concert Orchestra 1 Symphonic Orchestra 2,3,4, Cheerleading 1,2, Wrestling Matmaid 1,2,3,4, Academic Letter 3,4, Junior Miss Scholastic winner 4, , Multicultural committee 4, , NHS Pres 4, Senior Class Secretary

Alicia Smith
Student Council 1,4, Pep Club 1,2,3,4, NHS 3,4, Prom Committee 3, Homecoming Court 4, Soccer 3,4, Tennis 1 Cheerleading 1,2,3,4, Sr. Student Council V P

Curtis Smith
SADD/STOP 4, FCA 4, Video Club 2, French Club 3,4, Writer's Block 4, TA 1,2,4, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2, Jazz Band 1 4, Jazz Band 2 3, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Lab Band 2 1, Section Leader 3,4

Heather Smith
Student Council 1,2,3,4, Prom Committee 4, TA 4, Concert Choir 1, Tennis 1, Rotary Club, Student Council Treasurer

Jaclyn Smith
TA 3,4

Kristeen Smith
Peer Tutor 1,2, Marching Band 2, TA 3, Academic Letter 3,4

James Smith, Jr.
Quill & Scroll 3,4, Pow Wow 2,3,4, Baseball 1, Swimming – Basketball 1, Intramurals 2,3,4, Academic Honors Diploma

Stacey Smolnicky
SADD/STOP 3,4, Thespians 4, Pep Club 1,2, NHS 3,4, Prom Committee 3, TA 3,4, Lab Band 2 1,2, Cheerleading 1,2, NHS V.P., Young Woman of the Year participant

Michele Soto

At an after school meeting for SADD/STOP senior Julie Plunkett eats pizza and discusses future plans with other members. SADD/STOP often has pizza and pop before meetings.

Jake Spears
TA 2,4, Intramural Bowling Captain, Intramurals 1,2,4

Lisa Spence

Beverly Spitznogle

Jenene Stafford
SADD/STOP 2,3, FCA 3,4, TA 2,4, Cross Country 3,4, Volleyball 1,2, Track 1,2,3

Louis Stanko





Carrie Stanley
TA 1,3,4, Intramurals 3,4, Special Olympics 1,2,3,4

Michele Stanton

Crystal Starr

Buddy Statum

Michael Steege





Christina Stokes

Shellie Stout
Peer Tutor 2,3, TA 3,4, Marching Band 1,2, Concert Band 2,3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band 1-1

Sabrina Strong

Jason Sturgeon
Writer's Block 3,4, Legend 4, Pow Wow 4, Saga 4, T.A. 4, Writer's Block Senior Co-president 4, Legend/organization's editor

Shawn Stutler





One of several students to take a computer class, senior Matt Movre types during his third hour college prep keyboarding class. College prep keyboarding helped students learn to type faster, and learn the forms for papers.

Rhonda Sulcer
Thespians 2,3,4, Historian [illegible] Club [illegible], FTA 3,4, Choralaires 2,3,4, Chorallaire Pres. 4, Concert Choir 4, Symphonic Choir 3,4, Marching Band [illegible],4, Girls Gates Club 2

Bridgette Swab
SADD/LEOD 1,2, Video Club 1, French Club 2, 3,4, Science Club 2, Writer's Block 4, Hope Club 1,2, BPA 2, Saga 4, Tennis 1,2

William Swerdon
Golf 1,2,3,4, Tennis 1,2,3,4

Stephanie Szmutko

Richard Tarin
FA 1,2, Peer Tutor 4

Carolyn Taylor

Kenneth Taylor

Travis Thatcher-Curtis
Pep Band 2, Jazz Band [illegible], Symphonic Band [illegible],4, Lab Band 1, Intramurals 3,4

Christy Thompson

Christina Tidwell
FA 3

Laura Tigue
Peer Tutor 2

Michael Tilford
Student Council 1, Student Council V.P. 1, FA 3,4, Football 1, Basketball 1,[illegible], Basketball Intramurals 1,2,3,4

Christina Timmons
FLHS 3,4, FA 4, Marching Band 1,2, Pep Band 1, Jazz Band 1 4, Jazz Band 2,2,3, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 2,4, Concert Orchestra 1, Symphonic Orchestra 2 Golf 1,2,3,4, Golf Captain 4

Laura Tinnel
Pep Club 1 Volleyball 1, Basketball 1

Christina Torchia

Valentine Torres
Student Council 1,2,3,4, Pep Club 3,4, BPA 4, Prom Committee 3, FA 1,2,3, Homecoming Court 4, Marching Band 1, Lab Band 1, Pom Poms 2,3,4, Wrestling Manager 1, Pom Pons Captain 4, Fall Homecoming Queen, Jr. Class President, Pom Poms MVP 3

Arthur Torrez

Adam Trinks

Tonya Tucker
FA 2,3,4, Basketball 1

Tammy Tutko
Gymnastics 1

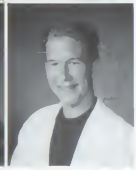
Timothy Valdivia

Casey Van Santen
FA 4, Swimming 2,3, Tennis 1,2

Louis Varner
Science Club 3,4, NHS 3,4, FLHS 2, Intramurals 3,4, Academic Letter 3,4

John Vasas

Natalie Vasquez
Tennis 1,2,3,4



Luis Vazguez
Thespians 3,4, Peer Tutor 1,3, FA 4

David Voss

Jerry Waggle

Shawn Walker

James Wallace

Terry Wampler

David Warren
Swimming 1,2,3,4, Track 2,3,4, [illegible] Manager 2, Swimming Captain 4

Alan Washburn
Student Council 4, Video Club 1 [illegible] Club 1,2,4, NHS 3,4, FHA 1,2,3,4, Peer Tutors 4, FFA 4, Choralers 1,2,3, Marching Band [illegible] Band 4, 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 1, Symphonic Band 4, NMSC "Commended Student"

Dawn Watson
Spanish 4, Hope Club 2,3,4, Marching Band 4, Honor Roll

Jennifer Watson
FFA 4, Marching Band 1,2, Pep Band 1,2,4, Jazz Band 2,3, Concert Band 2,3, Symphonic Band 4, Lab Band 2, 4, Orchestra Winds 2,3

Jamie Webster
Hope Club 2,3, president 4, NHS 3,4, Saga 3,4, Speech and Debate 3,4, FFA 3,4, Marching Band 1,2,3, Pep Band 1,2, Concert Band 3, Symphonic Band 4, Academic Super Bowl 4

Nina Weich

James Weldon

Nicholas Wellman
FFA 1,2, Homecoming Court 3, FFA 1,2,3,4, Football 1,2,3,4, Basketball 1,2,3, Baseball 2, Football Captain 4

Jimmy Whited

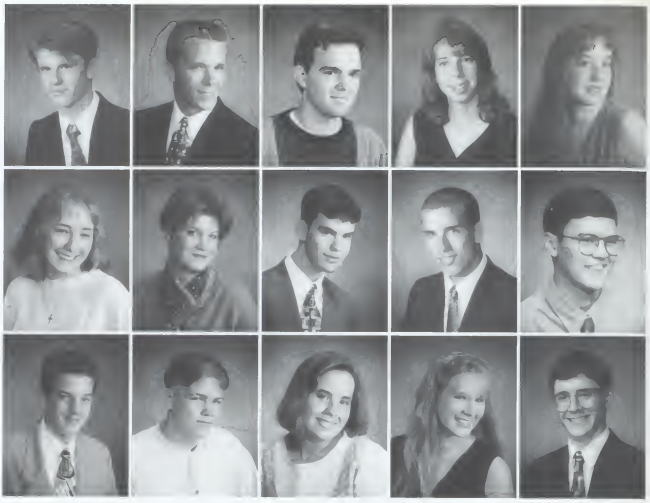
Shawn Whitson

Gregory Whitten

Dawn Wildrick
Peer Tutor 1,2,3

Keri Williams
FFA 4

Mark Williams
FHA 3,4, Marching Band 1,2,3,4, Pep Band 1,2,3,4, Concert Band 2, Symphonic Band 3,4, Concert Orchestra 1,2,3, Lab Band 2



During her study hall, senior Vanessa Spurrier teaches sophomore Tony Wilson how to tell time. Peer Tutors helped LRE students learn several things throughout the year.

Listening to their coach, seniors Ryan Gabey and Chris Spurrier practice for their track meets. Both Gabey and Spurrier participated in the shot-put and discus.

Michael Wilson
NPA 4, Basketball 1,2,3,4, Golf 1, Academic Letter 3,4

Tobey Wilson
FA 2,3,4, Academic Letter 3,4

Lisa Wineinger
Pals 1,2,3,4

Christopher Wineland

Stephen Winicky

Arthur Wright
Football 4

Kelly Zaparucha

Jason Zell

Loycene Zimmerman

Carey Ackerman
Allen Acosta
Karen Adams
John Allison
Gina Anderson
Marissa Anderson
Matthew Anderson
Heather Andryuk

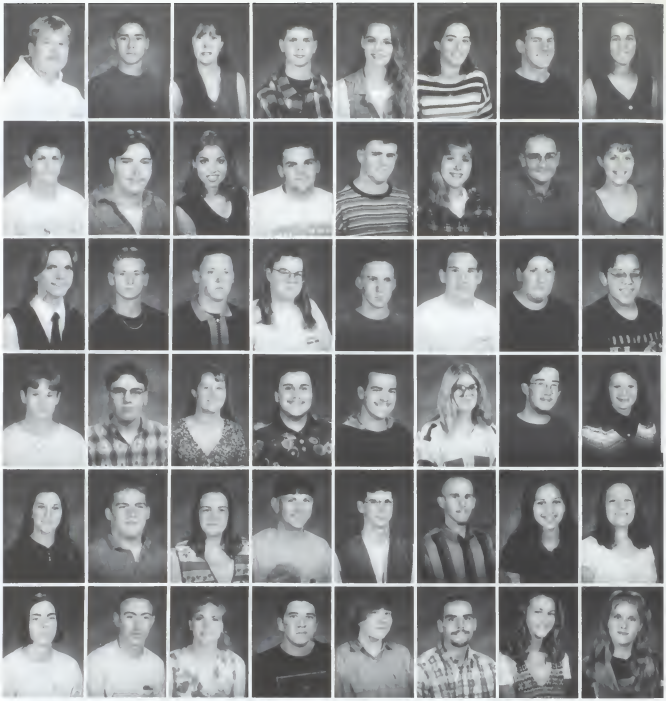
Cory Angle
Elijah Armes
Jessica Arredondo
Glenn Arwood
Matthew Atherton
Melissa Austin
Anthony Ballor
Chris Banke

Anthony Banks
Ricky Barber
Leon Barich
Jessica Barniville
Christopher Beach
Matthew Beals
Jason Bean
Joaquin Bedolla Jr.

Andrew Berger
John Billings III
Cheryl Blackburn
Paul Blanton
Anthony Blaszkiewicz
Sandra Bledsoe
Matthew Bogart
Amber Bogold

Jennifer Boksa
Ryan Bonner
Sandra Book
Ronald Boozer
Robert Bosstel
Brian Bough
Dollie Boyle
Sarah Bradford

Matt Brady
Joseph Braselton
Adriane Breyfogle
Kenneth Brown
Lori Brown
Carl Buergler
Toni Builta
Rebecca Burton



Junior Jennifer Russell uses a calculator on a math assignment. Many other tools were also used to help students learn, such as group work and field trips.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Jennifer Bush
Lisa Burala
Angela Burkiewicz
Danny Burkiewicz
Jillian Bysong
Breanna Cain
Jeffrey Camp Jr.
Heather Campbell

Crystal Cannon
Melissa Carpenter
Jade Alan Casteel
Tracy Caswell
Jennifer Cavezza
Jason Chabes
Gabriel Chaddock
Nicole Chagoya

Cristina Chandler
Chris Chapman
Nicholas Chapman
Kelly Charbonneau
John Chathas
David Chavez
Jill Childers
Michael Childs

Amber Chizmar
Amanda Cichowlaz
Heather Ciesielski
Stephanie Clark
Esteban Claudio
Corrine Cleland
Nathanial Clough
Jennifer Cloyd

Susan Coapstick
George Cobb
Mary Collins
Stephanie Collins
Bryan Conger
Jeffrey Connell
Shane Connell
William Connors

Testing for the future

Juniors who planned to go to college had a lot to consider in choosing a college, just as colleges consider certain criteria when accepting students for enrollment. One common tool used by students as well as colleges in making these choices is standardized testing.

All college-bound students were required to take tests such as PSAT, SAT, and ACT, which were offered several times throughout the year to juniors as well as seniors. The first thing a student did was sign a pass to see their counselor. Ms. Pamela Downard felt that taking the SATand the ACT was a good first step in preparing for college, because they helped students get an idea of where they would like to attend college and what they would like to become.

Having test sites at the high school and offering them several times were ways in which the administration helped make college preparation easier. Studies have shown that students generally do better each time they take standardized tests.

"I took the SAT last year, and I will take it again in March. I wanted to take it early and improve my score along the way," Sarah Bradford said.

The school also offered various other programs to students to help them narrow their career choices. The ASVAB test, career exploration in English classes, interest inventories, and aptitude tests were all ways to steer them towards a suitable career or college. Downard said, "You have to explore all options. How serious you are depends on whether these options will help you."

by Elizabeth Verbich

Junior Crystal Cannon concentrates on a test. With tests being a large part of grades, students had to use some of their free time to study.

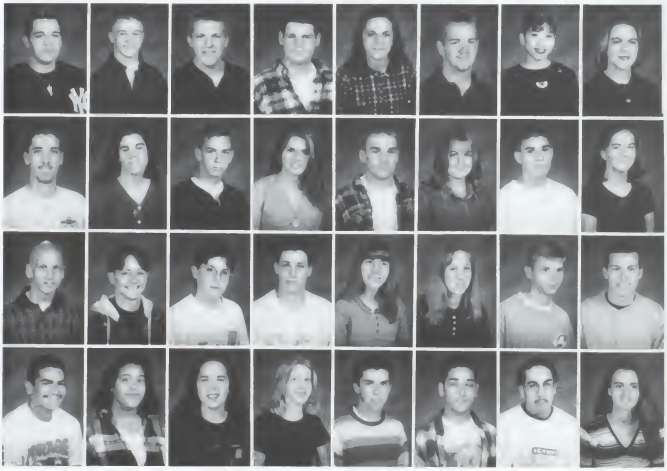
[Photo by Angel Rodriguez]

John Conrick Jr.
Steven Cook
Jason Copeland
Joshua Coppinger
Lisa Corbett
Duane Corll
Nicole Corral
Jennifer Cotton

Robert Covington
Amanda Crawford
Anthony Creech
Michele Cronch
Jason Crownover
Christina Cunningham
Alexander Curiel Jr.
Rachael Daily

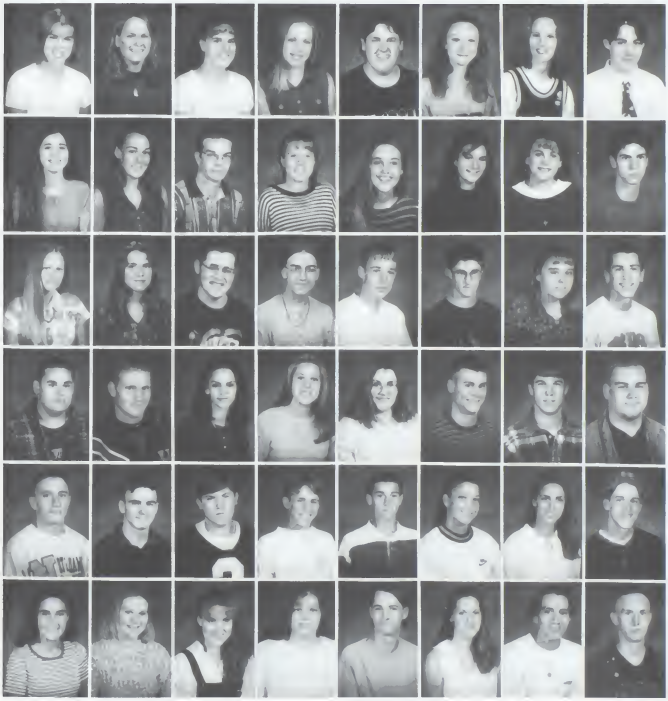
Aaron Daniels
Brian Davenport
Marc Davich
Casey Davis
Holly De Planty
Kristy Dec
Marcus Dedina
Jordan Dehaven

Ismael DeJesus
Petra DeJesus
Nina Delgado
Rebecca Delhaye
Derek Demmon
Carlos Diaz
Julian Diaz
Brandi Dicesare



(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Juniors Corrinne Cleland and Stephanie McCaw work on a homework assignment in their math class. Though juniors were not required to take math in order to graduate, many opted to add it to their schedules to help prepare them for college or work in the future.



Lisa Dobos
Melissa Dolby
Amy Dominick
Kimberly Dudek
Destri Duffee
Catherine Duncan
Tina Durham
Joseph Durk

Beth Duron
Stacey Durr
Robert Earl II
Rebecca Easton
Megan Edmonds
Jamie Eierman
Jodi Eierman
Andrew Elderkin

Becky Elliott
Amy Erway
Christopher Espinoza
Joshua Eyermann
Jeffery Fain
Jason Falkowski
Alicia Fedor
Aaron Fenters

Shane Fields
Matthew Fisher
Betty Flores
Jennifer Floyd
Melissa Foreman
Daniel Forney
Michael Forrest
David Frailey

PhilipFrechette
Charles Fruehwirth
Jeffrey Fuerst
Joseph Gabey
Timothy Galati
Heather Gapinski
Angela George
Scott Gerbick

Meagan Gerkin
Mindi Gilbert
Shannon Gillie
Kristie Gilmore
George Glotzbach
Mary Gnat
Edwin Gonzalez
Rickey Good

Planning for the future

SAT's and ACT's, career choices, number of credits, graduation time, and college choices. From the beginning of high school, preparation for college begins; however, it really starts to come together in the junior year when decisions are beginning to be made.

Administration provides several programs to students to help narrow career choices. The ASVAB, career exploration in English classes, interest inventories, aptitude tests and Advanced Placement are some of the many. Ms. Pamela Downard said, "You must explore all options. How serious you are depends on whether these options will help you."

Deciding on a career now can help in the long run. "My counselor has been very helpful in getting me classes that I need and giving me advice on what is available to me," junior Becky Easton said.

By their junior year, many students already know what they want to become and have already made several important decisions. Easton said, "I have known since sixth grade that I wanted to be a doctor and that I want to go to Notre Dame." Easton also has a back up plan, which many juniors need to think about along with their main plan. "I'll go to I.U. if Notre Dame doesn't accept me. I.U. has a good Medical School also." Not everyone knows what they want to be since middle school. Junior Chris Ward said, "Just last year I decided I want to be an orthodontist, and that I would like to go to I.U. in Bloomington."

Many students get stuck on the question of "where should I go." Counselors help by sitting down with each student and asking questions that will narrow down their options. The administration also has many programs for helping decide what college to attend; computers in the guidance office give information on various colleges, College Goal Sunday, College Mini Fairs in the commons at lunch, college representatives come to talk with students, and excused college visits.

Junior Amanda Siroky said, "I've been to Notre Dame and Ball State. I think it helps to go to the schools before making a decision. It helps you get an idea of what the school is about."

Finding the money to pay for college is, for many students one of the hardest things about the decision they make. Although her parents have saved some money for her, junior Lisa Hollands said, I plan to apply for scholarships and financial aid to pay for the rest." Cashe applications cost $2 and run what scholarships you are eligible for. Mrs. Sara Lux updates the scholarship board in the guidance office. Another option is student loans. To apply for student loans your parents must file taxes early and a FASA form must be filled out no later than March 1 and you will receive how much the loan offices can help.

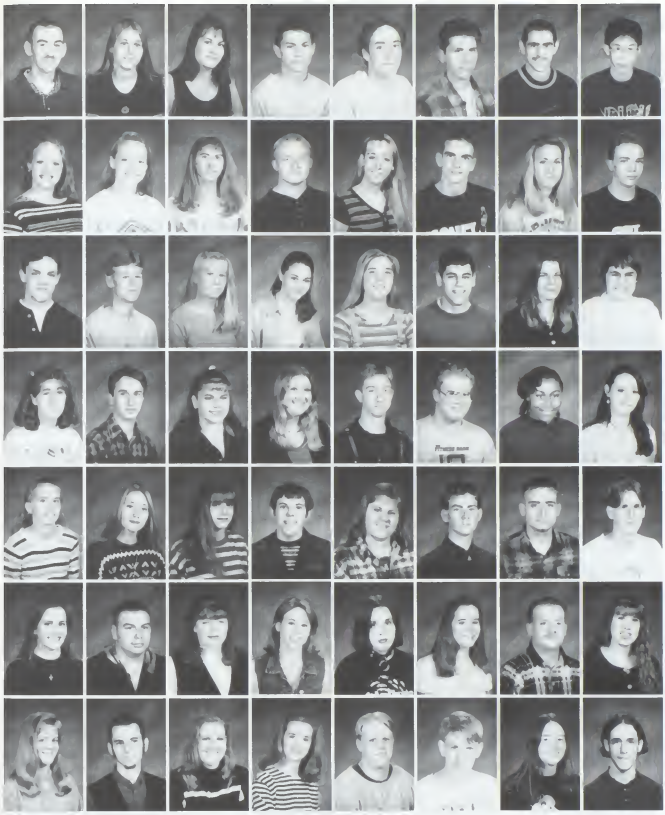
For most students deciding on careers and college isn't the hard part. Downard said, "Seniorities is a killer. Colleges want a student, with among other things, a strong senior year. So don't quit to soon! Work at it a little at a time and make sure to keep in touch with your counselors."

By Kathy Rea

Kimberly Gorgei
Rebecca Gorsich
April Grasham
Steven Green
Timothy Green
Charlie Greer
Cynthia Grunden
Gabriella Guerra

Jose Gutierrez
Wendy Hammond
Tiana Hardesty
Kevin Harding
Michelle Harman
Nikki Harper
Harry Harvey
Daniel Harvoth

Cynthia Hatala
Casey Hauswirth
Christopher Hayes
Theresa Hazzard
Steven Heck II
Michael Heckman
Bryan Hedrick
Budd Hefright



Jason Hendrickson
Tani Hensley
Jeanette Hernandez
Jason Herring
John Hillier
Edgar Hilzley III
Juan Hinojosa
Lang Hoang

Samantha Hodsden
Sydney Hodsden
Jessica Holtzman
John Homolla
Cari Horne
Charles Hoskins
Tina Housler
James Hudson

Bryan Hunt
Joseph Hunt
Meaghan Husted
Heather Hutmacher
Autum Hyde
Rashad Ibraham
Shannon Imes
Melissa Iwan

Krisry Jablonski
Michael Jackson
Loretta Jacobs
Rachel Jamison
Paul Jarrell
Clifford Jenkins
Brandi Jones
Mary Jones

Tiffany Jones
Heather Jongsma
Micheal Joseph
Nord Joseph
Casimira Jurgensen
Jeremy Kaiser
Joshua Kalmer
Jason Kawiecki

Jaimmie Keeling
Robert Keefer
Amanda Kegley
Kimberly Kelley
Jennifer Kelly
Lani Kelly
Stephen Kinder
Crystal King

Christine Kirincik
Casey Kirkpatrick
Nicole Kizer
Lindsey Klisiak
Jeffrey Knapp
Martin Knight
Michelle Kniola
Christopher Koller

Looking at her GPA with her counselor, Mr. James Snyder, junior Melissa Austin prepares for the years to come by taking advantage of the several programs available. The counselors helped students prepare for college.

Teaching her 3rd hour chemistry class junior Betty Flores points out the elementzinc. Mrs. Patricia Strawbridge often has her students explain concepts to help further their understanding of chemistry.

Christina Kostelnik
Jill Kozrowski
Joy Krejci
Heather Kucsera
Thomas Labus
Ryan Lang
Jean Laroche
James Lash

Theresa Lavendusky
Brianne Lee
Kristen Lee
Brieana Lees
Stacy Lemley
Sarah Lerch
Lisa Levenson
Dessa Lewandowski

James Lewis
Jeremy Lewis
Shannon Liesch
Robert Liskavec
Michelle Lilly
Michael Livengood,Jr
Robert Loomis
Thomas Loomis

Stephen Lugo
Robb Lukasik
Jacqueline Luttrell
Nicholas Lyman
Sarah Mahns
John Maliziola
Melinda Manna
Joseph Marsh

Jennifer Martinez
John Martinez
Amanda Martus
Scott Matlock
Amy Matthew
Jed Mayes
Gregory Mayes II
Mary Mazurek

Stephanie McCaw
Robert McClure
Shaun McConnell
Scott MacDonald
Jamie McDowell
Ryan McGuffey
Richard McKee
Amity McKiddy

Sitting in his third hour class junior Glen Arwood does his math assignment in Mrs. Bonnie Albert's geometry class. Two years of math are required for graduation.

Robert McKinney
Brandy Mclean
Bryan McMaster
Brian McWilliams
Courtnie Melton
Jacob Mendez
James Mendez
Yvette Menendez

Catherine Merritt
Mark Messinger
Allen Mietzner
Kevin Mikaloff
Brandon Miller
Lisa Minor
Samantha Minton
Scott Misner

Scott Moehl
Clayton Molden II
Tony Molina
Melissa Mongoven
Mignon Montpetit
Justin Morales
Jaclyn Mrak
Joseph Mrak

Cheryl Mullin
Susan Mullins
Nathan Mundt
Daniel Murray
Jill Murray
Zachary Murray
Debra Myers
Lindsay Najar

Ted Najzer
Sarah Natalie
Penny Needs
Elizabeth Negron
Jason Nelson
Jeramy Nelson
Misty Nelson
Michael Nemeth

Ricky Newman
Nicole Nickoles
Valerie Nixon
Timothy Nush
Jaime Nygra
Paul O'Donovan
Jeremy O'Neal
Shaun O'Neill

Misry Oatsvall
Dennis Odisho
Ezequiel Olmo
Margaret Opolski
Phillip Orr
Kenneth Orris
Elizabeth Orsolini
Kathryn Owens

Amanda Palmateer
Shawn Pappas
Anthony Parrigan
Michael Passerelli
Crystal Patrick
Janelle Peek
Michelle Pelot
Paul Penix

Trena Perrine
Joshua Perryman
Sarah Peute
Joseph Phillips
Michael Pickering
Courtney Pierce
Eric Pilnock
Chad Pio

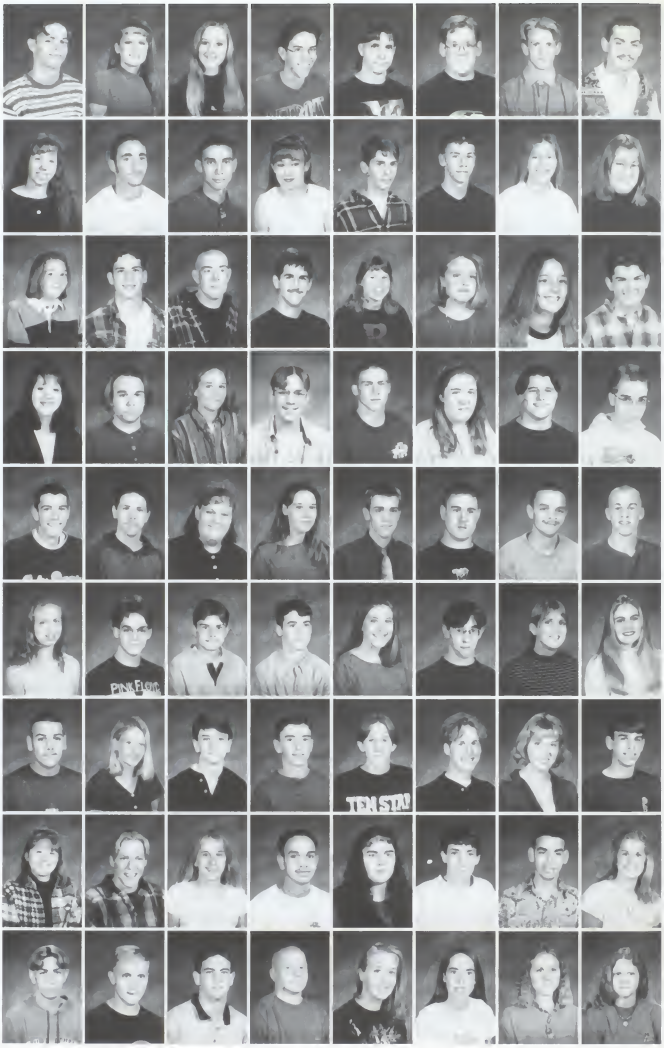
Timothy Pirowski, Jr.
Douglas Pofaul
Kelley Ponda
Bethany Popple
Jason Pratt
John Price
Charles Puskac
Nicholaus Rajski

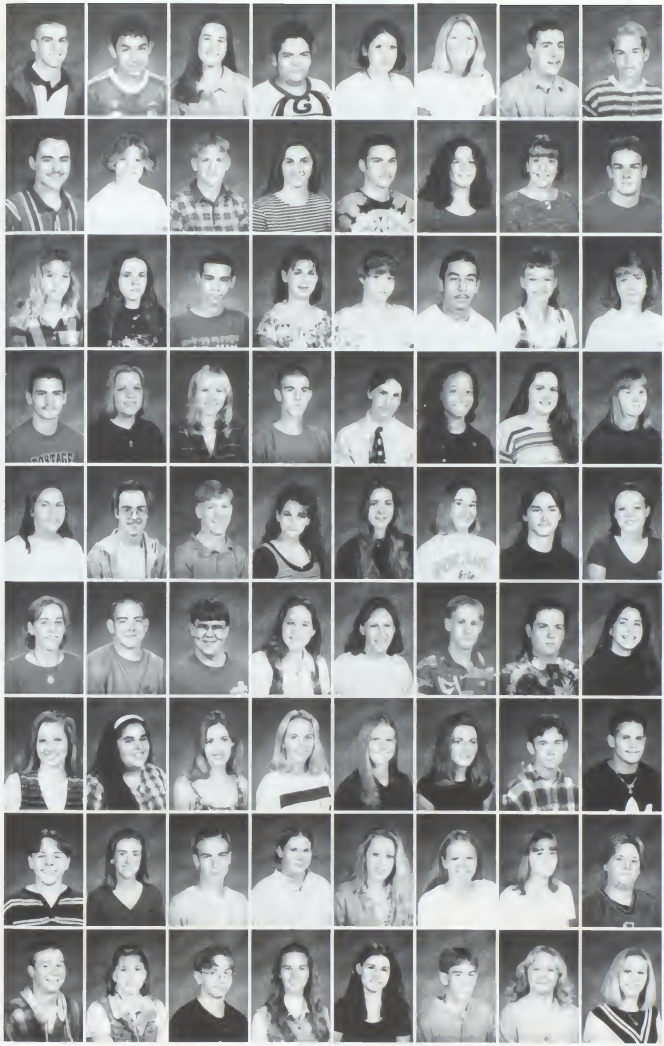
Denise Rambo
Richard Ramos
Edward Rectenwall
Steven Reibly
Jessica Reid
John Reisinger
Dannette Reno
Jaclyn Repay

Albert Reyes
Kortney Reynolds
Jace Rhea
Robert Richards
Ryan Richmond
Bruce Riffle
Amber Riley
Joseph Ring

Bridget Ripperdan
Andrew Ristau
Randi Ritter
Dominic Rivera
Kim Robinson
David Rodich
Henry Rodriguez
Dana Rogers

Charles Roop
Robert Rossman
Kenneth Roth
Marc Royce
Alice Russ
Jennifer Russell
Bethany Sabin
Nicole Salyer





Douglas Samuel
Patrick Sanchez
Stephanie Sandor
Noel Santiago
Stephanie Santos
Lise Sarich
Ernie Sasser
Justin Sawochka

Jason Sayer
Kimberley Scheeringa
Stephen Scheier
Krista Scheller
Kristopher Schertff
Keli Schmidt
Katie Schott
Brandon Schubert

Stephanie Schultz
Corey Schumacher
Craig Scott
Lauren Sefcik
Carol Selby
Michael Serros
Jennifer Seyernek
Nicole Shasteen

Peter Shaw
Courtney Shebesh
Julia Shelton
Nikolas Shields
Brian Shively
Talea Shorter
Kelly Shoup
Carina Simmons

Courtney Simmons
Jason Simpson
Joshua Sims
Elizabeth Singleton
Jami Sipich
Amanda Siroky
Nathan Sisco
Susan Skolak

Sarah Sloan
Thomas Smedley
Daniel Smith
Derinda Smith
Nicole Smith
Steven Smith
Curtis Snellgrove
Sonia Soto

Michelle Sparks
Melissa Spence
Carisa Spicer
Kimberly Spoa
Jennifer St. Julien
Jennifer Standish
Robert Starr
Sean Steele

Brian Stevenson
Amanda Strain
Todd Strom
Benjamin Strupeck
Jessica Sturgell
Sonja Sturges
Melissa Sulitz
Joseph Sullivan, Jr.

David Sultzer
Nissa Svantner
Scott Sworden
Fawn Tarne
Brandy Taylor
Tom Taylor
Cortnie Thiel
Brandy Thomas

James Thomas, Jr.
Chad Thompson
Tracie Timpe
Christopher Ton
David Torres, Jr.
Jose Torres
Esther Torrez
Charles Trembly

Machelle Trosper
Dawn Tucker
Damion Unland
Lashauna Urbanik
Jennifer Urchick
Marissa Vallejo
Ryan Van Auken
Phillip Vargas

Lisa Vaughan
Leroy Vega
Robert Vega
Gabriel Vega, jr
Elizabeth Verbich
Melissa Virden
Michele Vogt
Charles Vukovich

Amy Walker
Michael Wall
Jennifer Walworth
Bryan Warchus
Christopher Ward
Ronnie Ward
Jacob Warner
Heather Waters

Phillip Watkins
Travis Watkins
Julie Weber
Luke Weinman
Eric Wells
Christopher Westerkamp
Amy Whitworth
Jacob Wick

Chad Wildrick
Terry Will
Matthew Williams
Barry Wilson
Jeffrey Wilson
Nikki Wininger
Shaun Wishnevski
Justin Wishniewski

Robert Witt
Donald Woodke
Trisha Woods
Amanda Yates
Matthew Yoder
Cindy York
Wendy York
Zachary Zagar

Laura Zielinski
Jon Zeimer
Angela Zolkowski
Karin Zurcher
Kristin Zurcher

Achieving set goals

Students started the school year with high expectations and a variety of goals they hoped to accomplish by the end of the year.

Personal goals, future and goals having to do with school were all types of goals that students made.

Educational goals were popular among students. "My goals are to be on honor roll and find out more about my career field," junior Cathy Merritt said.

Some people had long-term goals. Junior Jim Lewis said, "My goal is to graduate, go to college, and become a teacher."

Most students had goals relating to their grades. "My goal is to get on honor roll," junior Tracie Timpe said.

Some people had other goals. Junior Nissa Svantner said, "My goal for this year is to find a stable, loving boyfriend."

Whether they are educational goals or not, many students had some type of goals they hoped to accomplish by the end of the school year.

By Christina Kostelnik

(Photo by William Busch)

Junior Michelle Harmon concentrates on one of the problems on her Algebra II worksheet. Many juniors took the SAT which focused on Geometry and Algebra II.

Steven Adams
Michelle Ahlfeld
Adam Alaniz
Christopher Alex
Jaqueline Alfaro
Sandra Alfaro
Carlos Alvarez
Stephanie Anderson

Timothy Armenta
Michael Arwood
Richelle Ashby
Jason Attinger
Shannon Aubuchon
Patricia Badillo
Bobby Bailey
Elizabeth Bailey

John Bailey
Natalie Balakir
Keri Ann Baldridge
Tasha Ball
Katherine Ballas
Rebbecca Ballinger Harris
Betty Banks
Daniel Barajas

Sandy Barajas
Jason Barwig
Natalie Bates
Michelle Batista
Emily Bauer
Heather Beach
Nicholas Beardsley
Jessica Becke

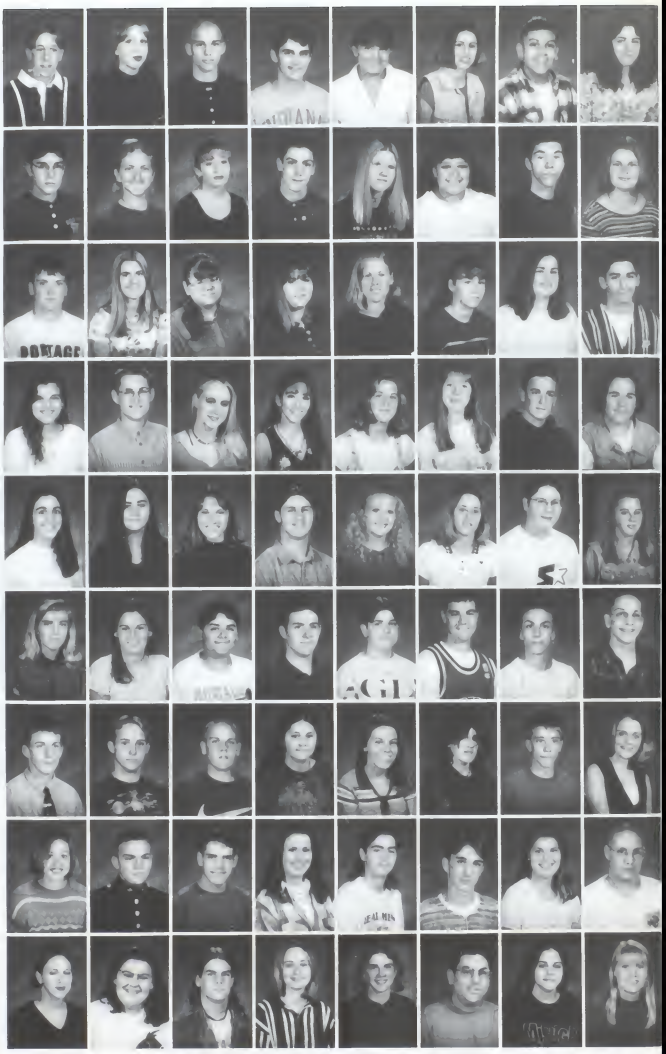
Missy Bedroya
Alissa Bethel
Theresa Bickham
Terry Black
Holly Blake
Shanna Blanton
Anthony Blystone
Kristy Boggs

Tara Bonds
Kelly Bonner
Thomas Boomsma
Kristian Boruff
Jacob Boyd
Thomas Boyd
Keith Bradney
Isaac Bragdon

Paul Brajcki
Aaron Branham
Marc Brannon
Faith Branshaw
Traci Ann Bretts
Amanda Brewer
Keith Brown
Mary Brown

Stephanie Brown
James Bryant
Brian Bryntarski
Jamie Buchanan
Jeremey Buckner
Ryan Bull
Elizabeth Bunker
William Busch III

Heather Bush
Maranda Campbell
Christopher Cardenas
Amber Carr
Justin Carr
Nicholas Carrillo
Rosa Carrion
Shawna Carter



Music gains diversity

Although all students are connected in some ways, there are a few differences that separate them. One of these diversities involves music.

Music tastes varied from rock bands like Silverchair and Pearl Jam to country singers such as Garth Brooks and John Michael Montgomery.

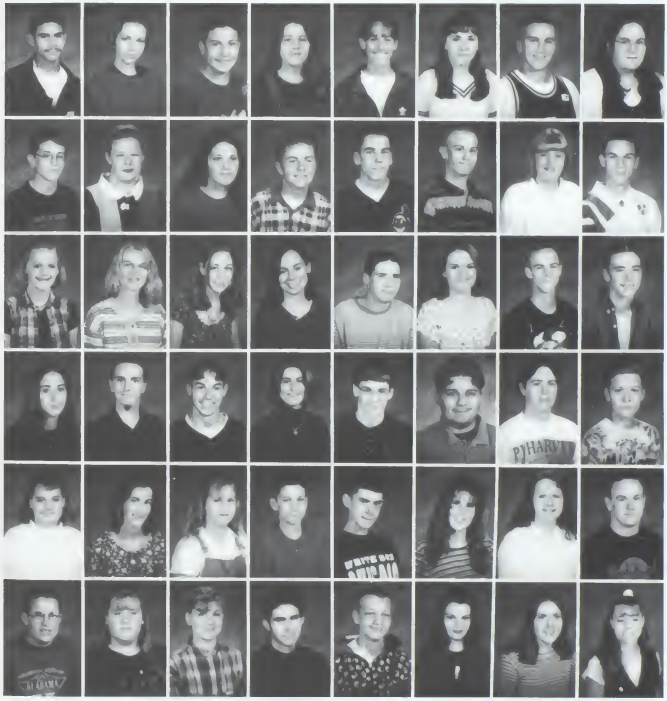
Sophomore Elizabeth Bunker said, "I listen to all different kinds of music. Sometimes I listen to Silverchair, other times I listen to Garth Brooks, depending on what kind of mood I'm in. I listen to music to unwind." Bunker wasn't the only sophomore to possess a diverse taste in music.

Sophomore Theresa Bickham said, "I listen to either oldies or country. I love Shania Twain. I listen to music when I'm bored." Twain hit the charts this year with the No. 1 country singles "Any Man of Mine" and "Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?"

Other kinds of music were also popular, such as rap, rhythm and blues, and dance music.

So whether students' CD collections consisted of Boyz to Men, Alan Jackson, Alanis Morrisette or all three, music was just another diversity in the melting pot that makes up this school.

By Mary Green



Juan Casillas
Trisha Castagna
Percy Castillo
Shellie Catherman
Elizabeth Cattani
Danielle Cauley
Nicholas Cerda
Jennifer Chapman

Ray Chapman
Holly Chinn
Brooke Chirila
Chad Chitwood
Timothy Chizmar
Jason Chontos
Jennifer Christian
Anthony Cimaljevich

Leacia Circle
Melissa Clark
Rebecca Clay
Megan Cleary
Thomas Clendaniel
Rebecca Clouse
Donald Cochran
Ernest Cochran

Leslie Coello
Steven Coffman
Steven Conder
Andrea Connelly
Brian Conner
Roy Contreraz, Jr.
James Conway
Michael Cook

April Cooros
Tracey Corey
Melissa Cowsert
Robert Cox
Kevin Crawford
Heather Cresap
Shaun Crider
Matthew Crizer

Jim Culig
Crystal Cummings
Erin Daege
Alexander Daich
Donald Daily, Jr.
Michelle Daniel
Heather Danielewicz
Jennifer Darnell

Art teacher Mrs. Cynthia Stojic helps sophomore Kelley Ramian and freshman Nicole Wright make their own paper through a process called embossing. Embossing was a project completed in Art Workshop.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

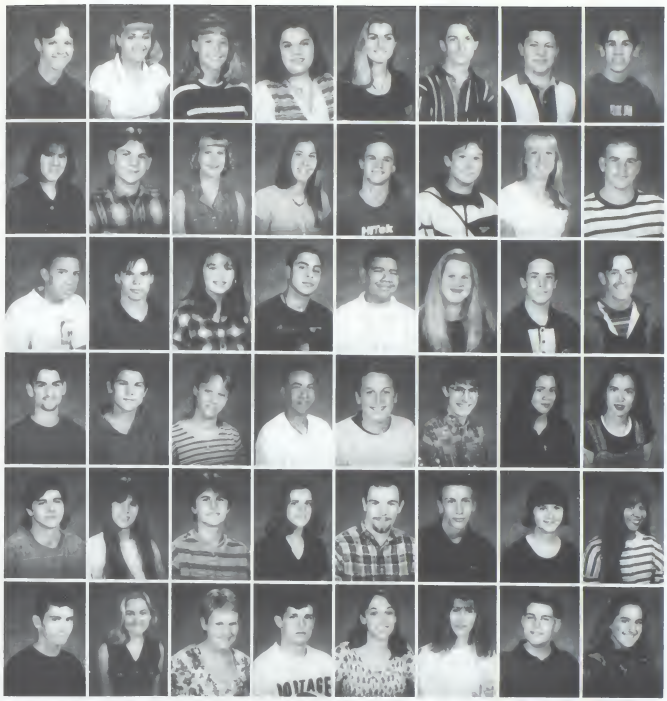
Martha Davaney
Joshua Davis
Melissa DeBord
Richard Dean
Kimberly Deboe
Brianna Degener
Irene DeJesus
Michael Delph

James DeWitt
Thomas Dicken
Dustin Dickerson
Charles Dills
Carisa Dixon
Charles Doll, Jr.
Louis Dominguez
Jessica Dozier

Andrew Drake
Michael Dranchak
Kennith Driver
Jennifer Dunning
Jason Dusz
Nicole Easton
Rose Ebling
Lee Eckhart

Gregory Egendorfer II
Eric Eliason
Michael Ellerman
John Emmet, Jr.
Natasha Erdelen
Joseph Ernst
Eric Erway
Victoria Eshelman

Naomi Espinosa
Monica Essig
Kelly Evans
Ryan Falck
Jason Farley
Melissa Fejes
Winter Felinski
Sara Fields



Aaron Finco
Jillian Finnerty
Cheryl Flach
Amanda Flanagan
Hollie Fleming
Aaron Fletcher
Kevin Flick
Michael Flores

Melissa Fluck
Emmanouel Fokianos
Amanda Ford
Natalie Fornari
Jeromie Fotystek
Estil Francis
Theresa Frechette
Brian Freeman

Christopher Freville
Philip Gagna
Melissa Gales
Arturo Gallardo
William Garcia
Elaine Geeting
Timothy Gensimore
George Geren, Jr.

Daniel Gesmond
Michael Gibson
Kristy Gilbert
Luis Glinos
Michael Goffredo
Craig Golbesky
Laura Gonzales
Lydia Gonzales

Terry Graham
Mary Green
Jason Greenwell
Marcy Greer
Homer Griffey
Aaron Gulbransen
Angie Gutierrez
Bianca Gutierrez

Anthony Hailey
Julie Hale
Krystal Hale
Elden Hall
Nicole E. Hall
Nicole K. Hall
Ralfie Hamerski
Kristel Hammerstein

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Sophomores Emily Trathen, Heather Bush, Amanda Brewer and junior Carina Simmons develop photos for thier "our friends" project. "Our friends" was one of the projects that students completed in Photography II.

Amber Hammond
Amber Hardin
Richard Harry II
Eugenia Hashman
Kristen Hasselgren
David Hasty
Michael Hatch
Adam Hatten

Laura Heck
Mark Heckman
Patrick Helmecy
Michael Henderson
Kimberly Hendley
Tova Henson-Gajdik
Fred Hernandez
Marisa Hernandez

Kristi Hesseltine
Michael Hill
Amanda Hise
Holleah Hitchcock
Jennifer Hodge
Michelle Hodges
Benjamin Hoffmann
Danyeall Hofmann

William Holguin
Michael Holland
Joe Holloway
Leenell Hooks
Jessica Hoover
Sarah Hopp
Al Hopper
Michelle Hostetler

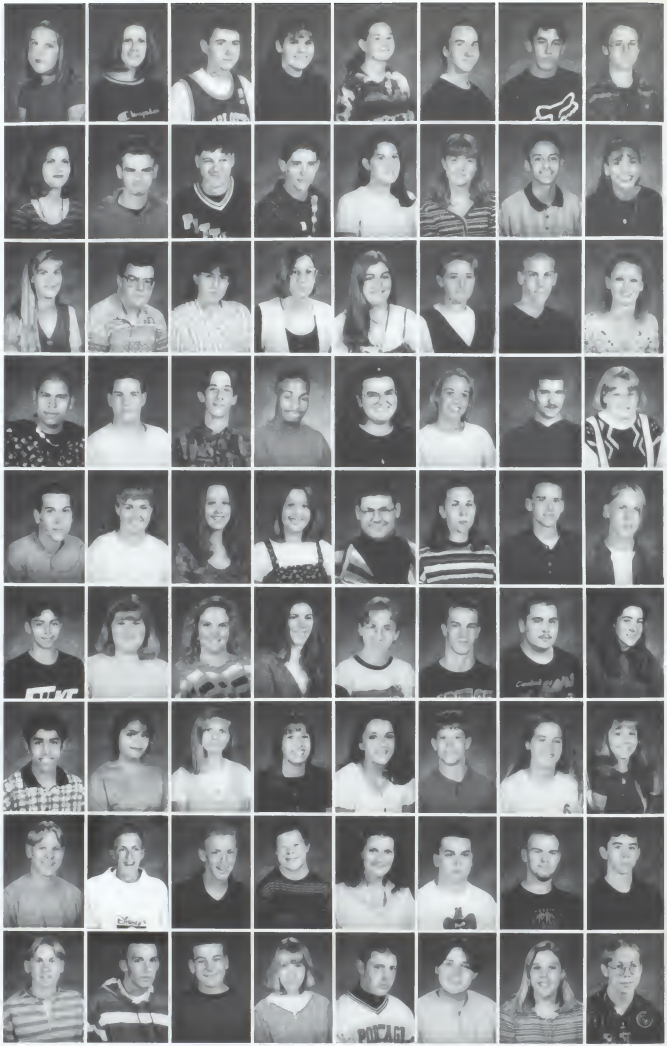
Nicolas Hotchkiss
Leah Huddleston
Natalie Huffman
Stephanie Huffman
Nicholas Hufnagl
Jodie Hunt
John Michael Hutchins
Aragorn Ilg

Manuel Infante
Elisabeth Ireland
Diandra Irvin
Stefanie Iwan
James Jacobs
Randy Jacobson
Joseph James
Gabrielle Jaremczuk

Fahad Javed
Melissa Jimenenz
Jennifer Johnson
Melissa Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Thomas Johnson
Tonya Johnson
Erin Johnston

Mikeal Jones
Daniel Kaminski
Stephen Kaminski
Shane Kary
Abigail Kay
James Keaton
Dustin Kelley
Stephen Kinlaw

Jacob Kleckner
Joshua Kleckner
Chad Koebcke
Jessica Koons
Ryan Korbar
Jeremy Korem
Jamie Kornacki
Philip Kowalski



Driving still an issue

In the past, some students looked forward to their sophomore year, because they would finally be able to drive to and from school. That all changed.

A rule was put into effect by the administration prohibiting sophomores from driving to school. Some students agreed with the rule. Sophomore Ralfie Hamerski said, "I think it's a good idea. No one should be able to drive to school as a student."

Other students weren't dramatically affected by this rule. Sophomore Maegan Wendt said, "It doesn't really matter to me. I don't have my license anyway."

Other students weren't directly affected by the restriction, but still disagreed. Sophomore Stephanie Waugh said, "I don't have my license, but I think it's an unfair rule."

Sophomore Kathi Martinez said, "I think that sophomores know the rules of the road every bit as well as juniors do. Isn't that what driving tests are supposed to prove?"

Some sophomores were directly affected because they already held licenses. Sophomore Shannon Longmore said, "There's plenty of room in the parking lot. If the state says we're safe enough drivers for the streets, we should be considered safe enough drivers for the school."

Longmore said, "Whether we like it or not, the driving rule is in the handbook, so it probably won't change."

By Mary Green

(Photo by William Busch)

Sophomore Stephen Mirich is one of few students of his class permiktted to drive himself to school. The no-driving policy for sophomores took effect and was still a controversial topic.

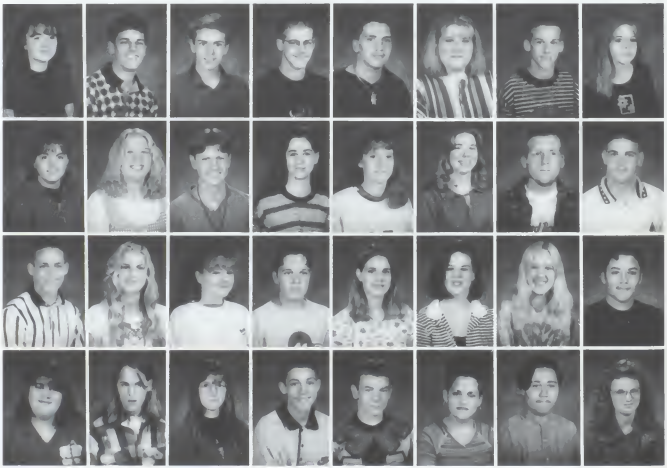
Molding a bowl in ceramics, sophomore Amy Rivera concentrates on glazing her pottery. Students in ceramics make an assortment of many projects ranging from animals to cups and vases in the class.

Jennifer Kozik
Brent Ksenak
John Kuehl
Aaron Kujawa
Phillip Kurtz
Jennifer Kuzma
Nickolas Ladra
Ginger LaPine

Christina Lawrence
Bridget Leeper
Daniel Lehman
Heather Leon
Deborah Lesko
Kristen Levan
Michael Lewandowski
Timothy Lewandowski

Jonathan Lewis
Nicole Lewis
Jamie Liebe
Robert Livengood
Melissa Lloyd
Shannon Longmore
Dana Looney
William Loubriel III

Theresa Loving
Stacey Low
Melissa Lowe
Bryan Lucas
Timothy Lucas
Tiana Lugo
Kirk Lyons
Sherry Lytel



Leticia Macias
Steven Malarik
David Maldonado
Kristine Manion
Michael Manske
Monique Martakis
Christopher Martin
James Martin

Catherine Martinez
Daniel Martinez
Gina Martinez
Michael Martinez
Joseph Martus
Julie Mason
Larry Massey
Rhiannon Mathews

Jennifer Mauck
Jason Maxwell
Richard McCall
Nicolas McDougal
Jason McGann
Jeff McKee
Kelly McWilliams
Keely Mead

Darin Medlin
Jeremy Melton
Aragon Mendez
James Mendez
John Metaxakis
Natalie Metz
Rose Meyer
Ross Meyer

Shannon Meyer
Jaclyn Meza
Marc Mihalik
Corey Miles
Dana Miller
Heather Miller
Melissa Miniel
Elizabeth Mirr

Flipping through the prom issue of "Seventeen," sophomore Natalie Fornari takes a break during photography class. Many students looked at magazines for ideas about pictures they could create.

Making a buck

Since a majority of students turn 16 during their sophomore year, this is a prime time for them to get jobs.

With jobs ranging from modeling to paper routes, most students will do just about anything to make a buck. Almost all students who have jobs do it for the money. Sophomore Sarah Noll works for Catering Corner busing tables, so that she can have money go to out with her friends on the weekends.

Whether it's to have fun or pay bills, students have lots of reasons to need money. Sophomore Jaclyn Meza said, "I used to work at KFC so that I could pay my car insurance."

Out of 40 sophomores interviewed, 25 of them work with food; either making it, serving it or cleaning it. The other 15 students found other jobs. Sophomore Abbey Kay is a sales associate at Aloha Pool and Spa in Portage.

While most students work after school or on the weekends, some students work the morning shift. Sophomore Therasa Bickham wakes up every morning at 5 a.m. to do two paper routes.

By Missy Bedroya

Tommy Mitchell
Jason Monhaut
Daniel Morre
Lisa Morrisroe
Brandon Mowbray
Charles Muir
Timothy Mulvihill
Patricia Muniz

Mark Murphy
Regina Muth
Michael R. Myers
James Napier
Ronald Necco
Christopher Nelson
Megan Nelson
Timothy Nelson

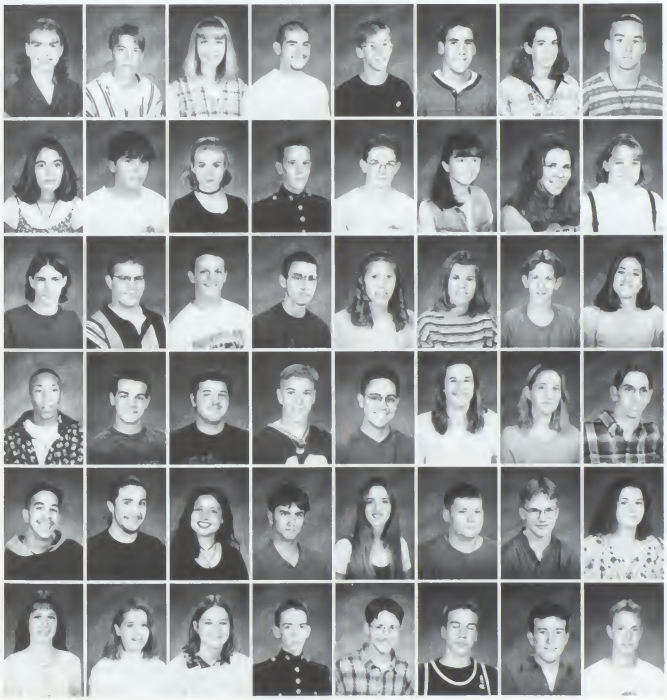
Marshall Newbold
Jeremiah Newhall
Patrick Newton
Wendy Nicholson
Jason Niloff
Sarah Noll
Brian Nulf
Robert Oakes

Mike Odisho
Melissa Oliver
Jason Ortiz
Richard Ostertag
Kathryn Ostrander
Laura Owen
Jonathon Owens
Nathan Ozug

Melyanda Pacheco
Kristina Pall
Dawn Pappas
William Parnell
Erica Passaloukos
Kaliope Paviadakis
Kevin Payne
Eric Pearson

Raymond Peda
Patience Pedone
Alicia Pedroza
Juleen Pezel
Danielle Pickart
Yvonne Piehl
Stacy Porter
Bradley Press

At the McDonalds in South Haven, sophomore Missy Lowe makes shamrock hats for St. Patrick's Day. Lowe started working at McDonalds when she was 16.



Tkayline Pridomore
Toby Provins
Carla Pugh
Ricardo Pulido
Todd Pulsoni
Tony Racich
Erica Radic
William Rajski

Kelley Ramian
Micheal Ramos
Jacquelyn Rattray
John Ray
Michael Ray
Kathleen Rea
Rebecca Reibly
Melissa Reily

Peter Remm
Kristopher Replin
Eric Reynolds
Allen Rhodes
Kelly Rich
Trisha Richart
Jason Richmond
Lindsay Rickard

Edward Riggins
Michael Riley
Michael Rio
Dustin Ristau
Aaron Rivera
Amy Rivera
Holly Roberts
Christopher Rogers

Abraham Rodriguez
Allen Rodriguez
Angelita Rodriguez
Edward Rodriguez
Dana Rogers
Jesse Rollins
Adam Royce
Rosemary Rubalcava

Gabrielle Ruggeri
Christina Rummell
Heather Ruse
Shannon Russum
Craig Rutkowski
Matthew Rzepka
George Sabo
Jonathan Salyer

April Samuels
Michael Sanchez
Jennifer Sandage
Ryan Satka
Julie Scanlan
Thomas Scharpf
Brandon Schmidt
Tommilynne Schmidt

Corey Schnarr
Sheldon Schwalm
Adam Scott
April Selvage
Michael Sepke
Nicole Shaw
Joshua Shear
Anis Sheth

Heather Shoup
Roxanne Shukitis
Kathleen Siminski
Nicola Simmons
Shaun Simmons
Cory Sizemore
Joshua Slatton
Alicia Smith

Brandon Smith
Heather Smith
Phillip Smith
Shelley Smith
Stephanie Smock
Anthony Sobczak
Chadwick Solivais
Stephanie Spenner

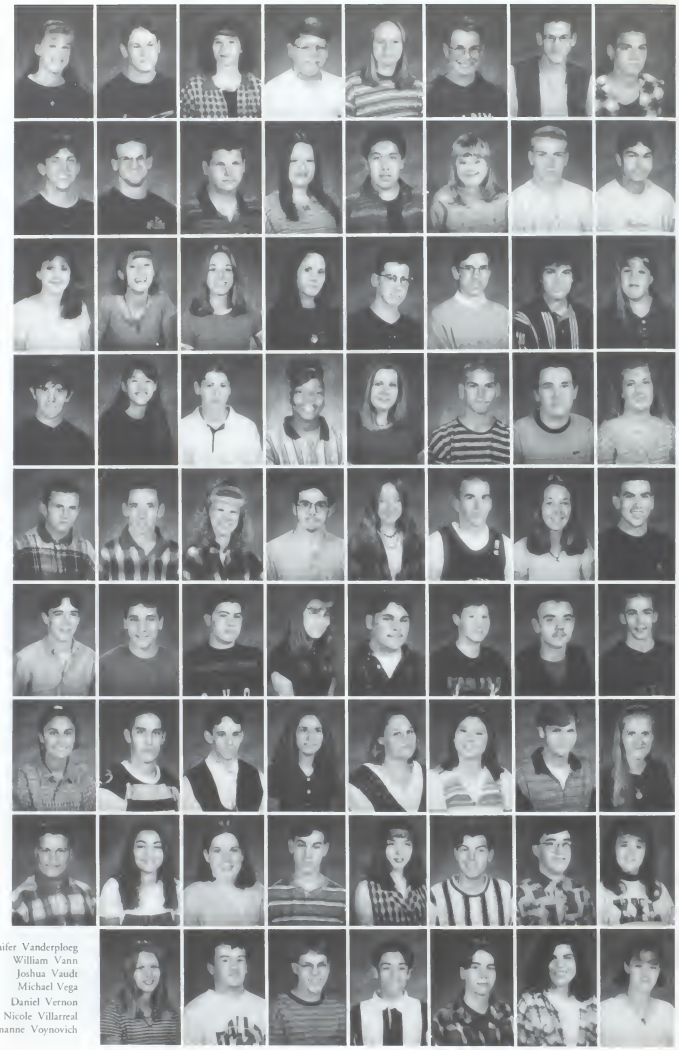
Stephan Stanfel
Ules Stidam III
Megan Stout
Scottie Stout
Shannon Strickland
Timothy Sudlow
Stephanie Suffern
Michael Sullivan

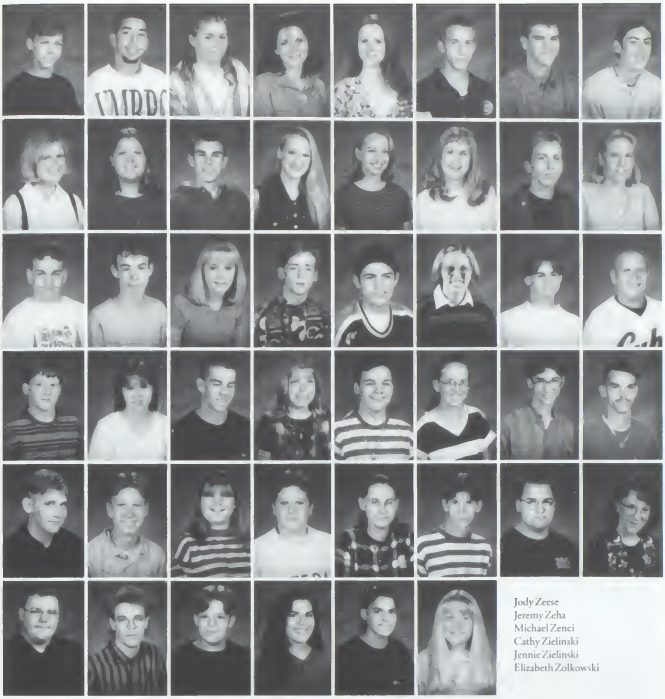
Ryan Sweeney
Charles Switzer
Michael Szarmach
Amanda Szentesy
Michael Szostek
Ryan Taiclet
Joseph Tanner
Marc Tarpley

Kristy Tellez
Eugene Teso
Steven Thompson
Tonya Thornton
Frances Tibbetts
Gwyn Tidwell
David Tomes
Danielle Ton

David Torres
Evana Torres
Emily Trathen
Jonathan Tummond
Rebecca Turley
Brad Twilla
Phillip Tyskiewicz
Sarah Uzlac

Jennifer Vanderploeg
William Vann
Joshua Vaudt
Michael Vega
Daniel Vernon
Nicole Villarreal
Genanne Voynovich





Douglas Walstra
Daniel Walworth
Deborah Ward
Amy Washburn
Kristal Waters
Brian Watson
Eric Watson
Kevan Watson

Stephanie Waugh
Jennifer Wayte
Shannon Webb
Regina Weems
Tabetha Weldon
Maegan Wendt
Russel Weyant
Misty Whalen

Ted Wheeler
Anthony Whiteside
Nina Wild
Anthony Wilson
Nathan Wilson
Rachel Wilson
Christopher Wilusz
Joseph Winicky

Matthew Winkoff
Elizabeth Wireman
Blake Wiseman
Tiffany Witka
Brandon Wittman
Rhonda Woodke
Jason Woods
Ryan Woods

William Worak
Robert Woynaroski
Cora Wright
John Wright
Kristina Yates
Jeremy York
Jason Yuraitis
Eugenia Zaganas

Jody Zeese
Jeremy Zeha
Michael Zenci
Cathy Zielinski
Jennie Zielinski
Elizabeth Zolkowski

Stepping up to 16

Sixteen, what does it really mean? Most sophomores either already are 16 or were soon to be. To some it was a major turning point in their life, but to others, it came unwanted or they may have been unaffected by it. "My birthday wasn't really that big of a deal, it was just another day," sophomore Becky Clay said.

Turning 16 came with added responsibilities and more decisions to make. Sophomore Percy Castillo said, "I was anxious because I finally got more freedom that I could do more."

Most sophomores contemplated whether or not to get a job and when they were going to get their license. Others thought about how they were going to celebrate their big day, "I couldn't wait for my 16th birthday because I got to see my favorite band in concert," sophomore Trisha Castegna said.

For those that anxiously waited for their 16th birthday, some said it was not all it is cracked up to be. Most agreed it was a welcome change to get more freedom and new responsibilities.

By Melissa Foreman

Mr. Tom Sanidas, coach of the freshman boys basketball team, gets into the action of the game. The team had to practice more than 12 hours a week to improve on offense and defense.

Bridget Abbot
Jocelyn Adamski
Norma Addison
April Adkins
Daniel Adkisson
Kristy Alaniz
Autumn Alderson
Troy Alford

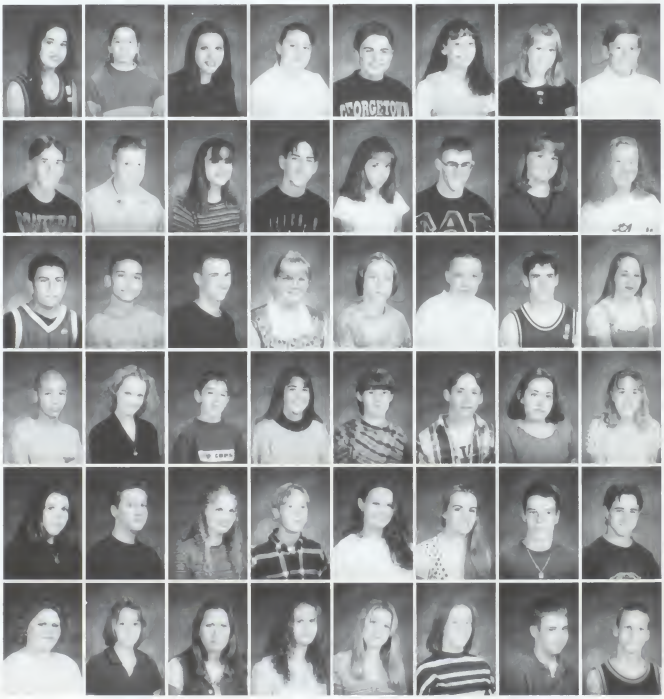
David Alonzo
Jeffery Amstein
Elizabeth Anderson
Robert Anderson
Brandi Arcuri
Jacob Atherton
Erin Austgen
Majorie Austin

Richard Ayala Jr.
Johnny Azcona
Audie Bailey
Eliabeth Balash
Derek Baldwin
Joseph Balta
William Bardsley
Misty Barendsen

Adam Barrientez
Michelle Baugh
Jonathon Bassett
Admanda Bartok
Angeline Baughman
Paul Baum
Marisol Baumann
Kristina Beiswanger

Nicole Bellamy
Carl Benjamin III
Heather Bennett
Michael Benson
Stacy Berndt
Lisa Berty
Thomas Bialata
James Bigham

Shannon Bloomingdale
Melissa Blanton
Nichole Blanton
Erica Blastick
Tiffany Block
Natlie Blanchard
Douglas Blouir
Joshua Blunk



Bells alarm students

Many students had classes at either East or West. The three-minute bells helped remind them there was only three minutes of class left.

Three-minute bells were used for students who had a class at East or West. If a student had a class at one of the other buildings they heard a three-minute bell at the last three minutes of class which, signaled them to leave. Many students thought the bells were important.

"I thought the bells were a good idea because I got to class faster," freshman Tara Curtis said. Freshman Ricardo Munez agreed. "It gave me more time to get to the other building."

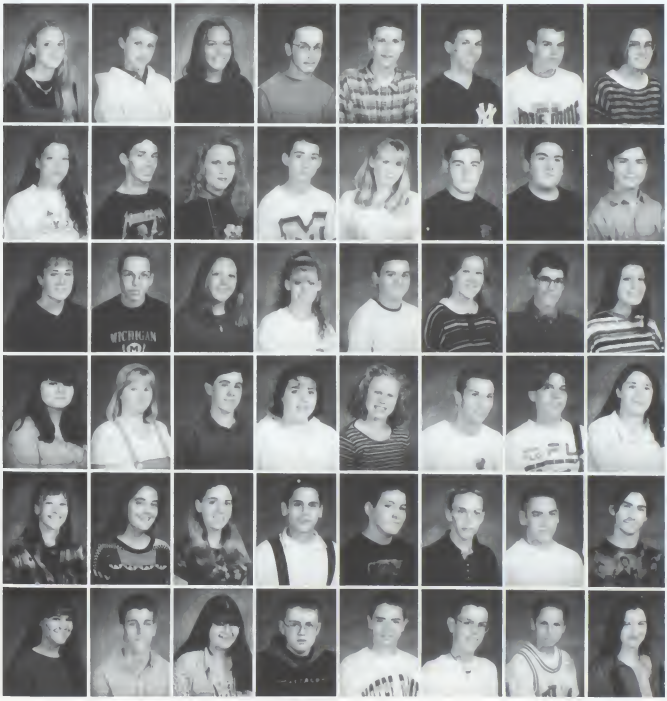
Some teachers thought the bells weren't necessary. Mr. Robert Parker, U.S. History teacher, said, "I didn't need them. I knew when there was three minutes left."

Students agreed that the bells gave them more options. Freshman John Colburn said, "You got more time to go to your lockers and get to class."

Most students thought the bells were important because they prevented tardies. "They were a good idea because they gave students more time to get to the other building," freshman David Meyer said.

The three minute bells were important to students because they helped in a variety of different ways. They helped prevent tardies, gave students more time to go to their lockers and got them out of class three minutes early.

By Christina Kostelnik
Stacy Lemley



Elizabeth Bobb
James Boch
Patrice Booth
Micah Bornstein
James Bosstel
Andrew Bradbury
Chad Bradford
Jennifer Bradley

Heather Broadway
Jerry Browning
Dorothy Brunker
Derek Bryant
Patricia Bryant
Douglas Buckner
Joshua Buckner
Bryan Buckroff

Kelly Buhman
George Burchuk
Fawnda Burlingame
Lisa Burton
John Butala
Dawn Butterfield
Nicholas Byroad
Catherine Camery

Kathryn Camisa
April Campbell
Bruce Campbell
Leanne Campbell
Wendy Cannon
Joseph Capodagli
Corey Cardenas
Christine Cardona

Kimberly Carlson
Denise Carpenter
Kimberly Carpenter
Rudolph Carillo
Ricky Carrion
Jerad Casias
Samuel Casko
David Castle

Deanna Caudillo
Joseph Cauley
Vicenta Chagoya
Anthony Chapman
Michael Chapman
Anthony Chappo
Steven Charnetzky
Sarah Chase

Angel Chavez
Guy Chavez
Jace Chavez
Malisa Chavez
Candace Child
Gretchen Circle
Garrett Clough
Cynthia Cochran

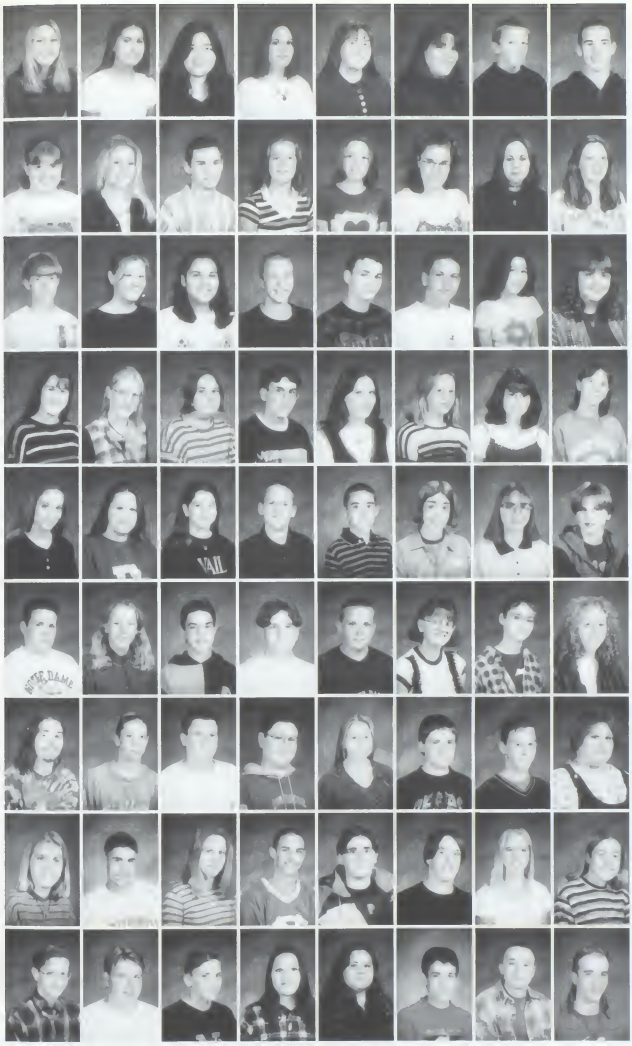
Lisa Cohen
John Colburn
Misty Coleman
Ricardo Colon
Jamee Connaway
Daniel Cook
Trisha Cook
Jason Corbett

Amy Cosby
David Costa
Brandon Cotton
Madelene Covelli
Herbert Cox
Richard Cox
Emily Craighead
Brandy Cranfill

Michelle Creech
Candace Crockett
Chad Cronin
James Crowley
Brian Cummins
Matthew Cunningham
Eric Curiel
Anthony Curtis

Tara Curtis
Kenneth Daily III
Cari Daniel
Kevin Dash
Sabrina Davis
Mathew Dean
Robert DeBernardi
Kathleen Dee

The freshmen cheerleaders cheer during the fall homecoming parade. Many students participated in the parade, which attracted residents from Portage.



Ashlie DeHaven
Linette DeJesus
Michelle Delgado
Jennifer Denny
Robyn Detterline
Sally Detterline
Erik Dewitt
Ryan Dexter

Kathryn Dick
Elizabeth Dillman
Anthony Doeing
Ryen Dohner
Tiffany Dominic
Dylan Doran
Tanya Doss
Denise Dougherty

Edward Downs
Roshelle Doyle
Patricia Duarte
Steven Dujmovich
Daniel Durfee
Jeffery During
Dolores Duron
Daysha Dusz

Charlotte Dutcher
Renee Dutcher
Chris Dziepak
Michael Dzyacky
Brandy Earl
Lindsay Easton
Brandy Ebling
Sarah Eckhart

Cheryl Eddy
Julie Edgerton
Charissa Edmond
Christopher Elkins
Jeffrey Ellis
Thomas Else
Marilee Epley
Donna Evans

Evan Evans
Hope Ewing
David Fadely
Joseph Falck
Dale Fancher III
Alice Farr
Jennifer Feeney
Jennifer Fekete

Derek Ferguson
Glenn Ferguson
Jason Fields
Jonah Fields
Rachel Fink
Jonathan Fisher
Ryan Fisher
Marisol Flores

Christina Floyd
Enrique Fontanez III
Kimberly Ford
Albert Forgus
Larry Foster
Timothy Frame
Jaclyn Frechette
Melissa Fritz

James Frizzell
Daniel Fulkerson
Adam Gaines
Ryann Galindo
Jennifer Gann
John Garza
Arthur Geary
Ronnie Gentry Jr.

Marcus Gilbert
James Gilbert II
Mark Gillie
Dionne Gingerich
Kellie Glans
Kevin Goad
Ricky Goggins Jr
Joseph Golarz

Heather Golec
Walter Golec
Nathan Gonzales
Moses Gonzalez
Raquel Gonzalez
Tiffaney Gorby
Michael Gore
Elsie Grace

Jessica Grant
Bradley Green
Michael Griffith
Heather Griffiths
Kortni Grochowski
Kevin Gross
Suzanne Grunden
Joshua Grunstein

Tina Guernsey
Adam Gurevitz
Arthur Gutierrez
Shirin Gutierrez
Matthew Guy
Cheryl Guzikowski
Tiffanie Haburjak
Allen Hagan

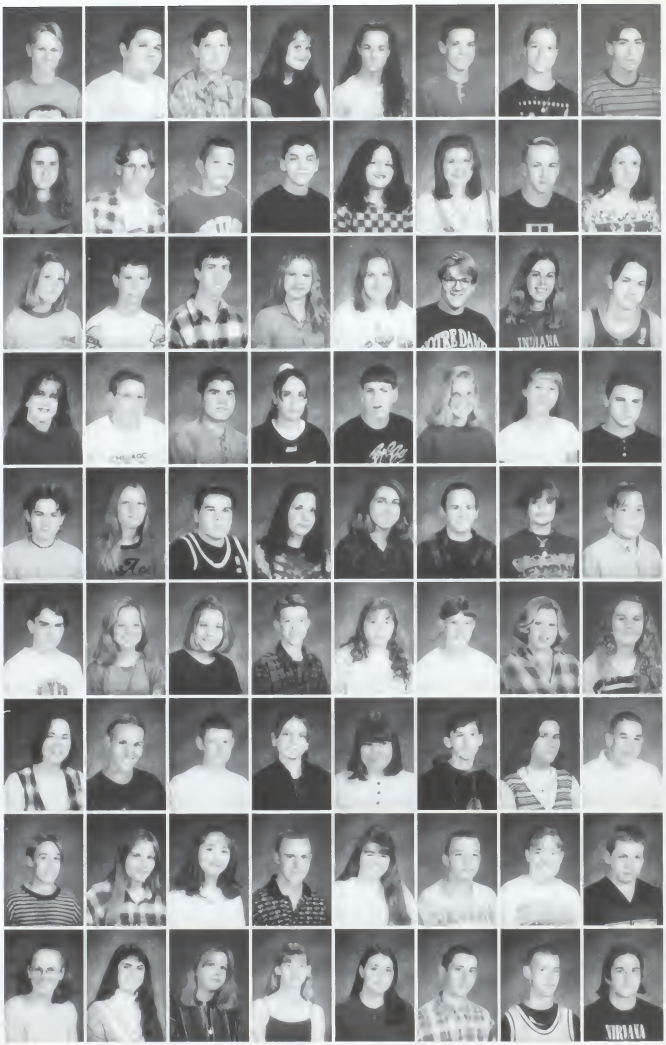
Michael Hailey
Kelli Hale
Shane Hale
Brandi Hall
Rebecca Hall
Scott Hall
Kathleen Hamilton
James Hankins

Sean Hannon
Melinda Hansell
Melissa Hansell
Jon Harbaugh
Kia Hardesty
Eric Harrell
Erin Harrell
Chana Hart

Kelley Harth
Jesse Harty
Joseph Hatala
Stephanie Hatfield
Cassandra Hendon
Phillip Hensley
Amber Hepner
Anthony Hernandez

Brian Hernandez
Brandi Heyse
Laine Hillier
Dylan Hinton
Jami Hobbs
Roderick Hobson
Christina Hodges
Jimmy Hodges

Amber Holeman
Kimberly Holland
Nicole Honeycutt
Rachel Hood
Amanda Hopkins
Ryan Horner
Devlin Howe
Joseph Hudson



Nathan Hufstedler
Kristi Hughes
Danyelle Huhnke
Jeanine Ibrahim
Nicholas Ilg
Stacy Iliff
Nicole Ifante
Andrew Jablonski

Amber Jacobson
Rachel Jamison
Heather Jaques
Erin Jedlikowski
David Jenne
Jason Johns
Brian Johnson
Kristy Johnson

Sheri Johnson
Kelly Johnston
David Jones
Anthony Juliana
Mark Juszcak
Jason Kallio
Robyn Karner
Kristin Kauffman

Chad Kavis
Katie Kawiecki
Kevin Keefover
Keith Kerr
Willie Key
Heather Kilgore
Krista King
Kristin King

Natalie Kirincic
Thomas Kirkpatrick
Heidi Kitchen
Joseph Klimczyk
Angela Knapczyk
Danielle Komenda
Kristofer Komenda
Kevin Kosovich

Michael Kramer
Sarah Kreuger
Robert Kriess
Jessica Kroledge
Melanie Krostag
Charles Kuntz
Jessica Lach
Rebecca Lackey

Diving for the ball, freshman Melissa Smith makes an important save. Smith played mostly varsity and junior varsity goalie but also played field throughout her first high school season.

Kristopher Lafoy
Justin Lamb
Bradley Lancaster
Rachel Lapinne
Justin Larkin
Matthew Lasayko
Rodney Lawrence
Jessica Ledesma

Eric Lee
Jamie Lee
Jennifer Lehocky
Matthew Lemus
Michael Leonard
Tahana Letica
Sebrina Leto
Christina Levenduski

Amanda Lewandowski
Jeramy Lewandowski
Angela Lewis
Michael Liesch
Devon Lilly
Kenneth Livingston
Amy Long
Christina Looney

Mario Lopez
Richard Lopez, Jr.
Jamie Low
Heather Lucas
James Lucas
Joshua Lusco
Sarah MacMillan
Leonard Macys

Donald Magee III
Samantha Mahoney
Jason Malarik
Traci Malenky
Umera Malik
Bethany Manfred
Melissa Mann
Jacinda Mardis

Kenneth Markos
Thomas Marovich II
Catherine Marsh
Travis Martakis
Laura Martinez
James Martus
Joshua Morvel
Nicole Mashak

Freshman Jessica Sandor heads the ball in a soccer game against the Chesterton Trojans. The girls soccer team advanced to regionals, but was defeated by Concord Minutemen, 0-2.

Ryan Mason
Cassandra Mateo
Richard Mayerik
Erica Mayfield
Jason McGhee
Amber McKiddy
Christine McCart
Patrick McGlothlen

Kevin McGuffy
Jeremy McHargue
Jessica McKee
Katherine McNeil
Tracy McNeiley
Christine McQueary
Amanda McTaggart
Keri Mead

Adam Medved
Elizabeth Melvin
Celina Mendoza
Jeffrey Merrell
David Meyer II
John Mick
Traci Miedema
Christopher Mikaitis

Kristin Mikaloff
Amber Mills
Jenessa Misevich
Thomas Modesto
Jeremy Monacy
Briana Monette
Melissa Monette
Gregory Monnier

Brian Mosley
Samuel Mulvihill
Jose Munguia-Arias
Elizabeth Munoz
Gina Munoz
Michael Munoz
Shanna Murch
Timothy Murphy

Trisha Murphy
Angela Murray
George Murrow
Krista Napier
Amy Nelson
Jeremy Nelson
Nicole Nemeth
Valeree Nestorovich

Freshmen Connect

On Freshman orientation day, ninth graders flooded into this school for the first time as one class. Students primarily from Willowcreek, Fegely and Nativity combined to become the class of 1999. Different students had different opinions about what they thought of high school

Freshman Melissa Roach said, "High School is like another world. You have so much more freedom."

When asked about her opinion on high school, freshman Korianne Null said, "It's groovy."

On the other hand, freshman Shane Hale said, " I like middle school better." Hale wasn't the only student to have problems.

The main problem with most freshmen seemed to be getting lost. Hale couldn't find the stairs, and freshman Danyele Toczek said "I went to the wrong class and stayed there until the teacher went through attendance and found my name not on the list."

Roger O'Rourke got lost traveling from the third floor to the first. Laughing, he said, "I even get lost in the bathroom."

So whether freshmen like high school because of, according to O'Rourke, the "fly honeys," the apending freedom, or don't like it at all, as freshman Tom Shane said, "We have a long year ahead of us."

By Mary Green

Susan Newlin
Nicholas Newman
Shaun Neyhart
Teresa Nichols
Dallas Nicklas
Stephanie Niemcewicz
John Niles
Lisa Nova

Korinne Null
Ricardo Nunez
Christopher Nunley
Becky Nusbaum
Christina Nystrom
Stephanie O'Connor
James O'Keefe
Shannon Oconnor

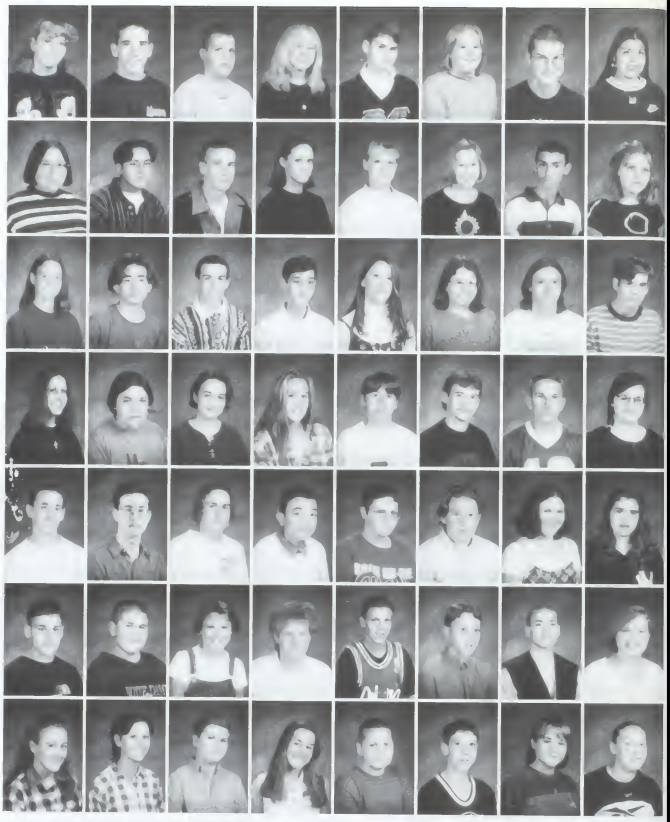
Kimberly Ogden
Christopher Opolski
Harold Orourke
Moises Otero
Kelli Owens
Adella Pacheco
Anthony Padlo
Kenny Palmer

Nicole Papp
Jeffrey Pappas
Kathryn Parduhn
Melissa Parker
Gregory Partin
Joseph Paschall
John Paskevich
Margaret Patitsas

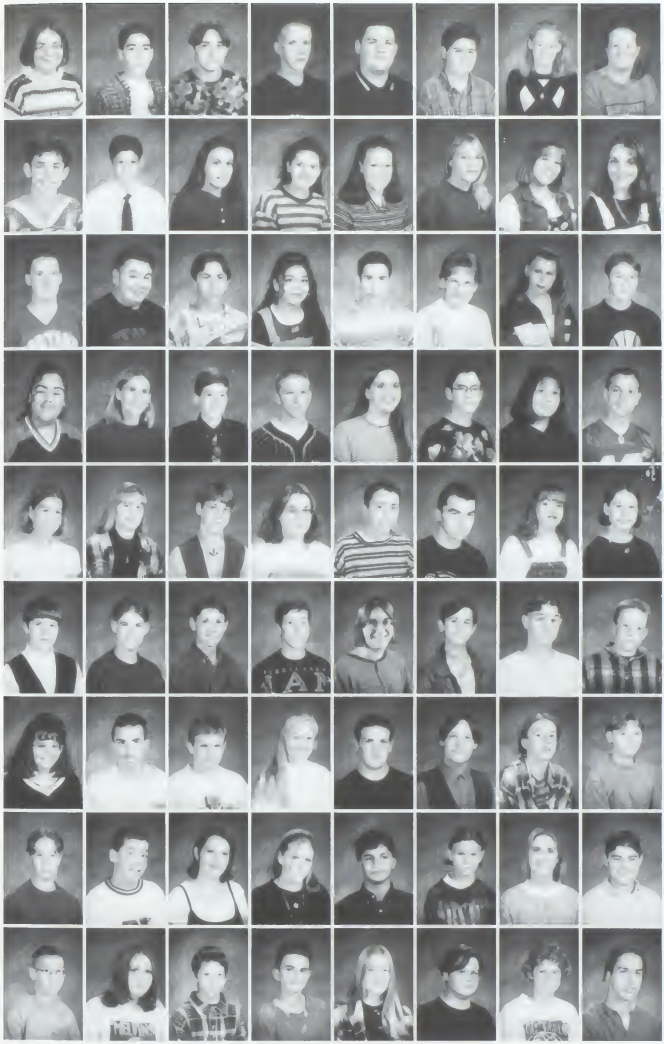
Christopher Pauley
Joseph Paunicka
Robert Peksenak
Eric Perez
Jeremy Perrine
Joseph Perry
Lindsay Perryman
Nicole Persin

Chadwick Peyton
Richard Piazza
Amanda Pirowski
Jennifer Pisinski
Ryan Pokrywczinski
Jonathan Pollard
Samuel Pomeroy
Amanda Potts

Tara Potts
Evgenia Prassas
Daniel Prendergast
Tabatha Pryle
Donnie Pyle Jr.
Thomas Quinn Jr.
Julie Racich
Stephanie Radloff



Guarding her opponent, freshman Candance Crockett tries to prevent the Merrillville Pirates from scoring a point.



Stefanie Ragon
Michael Ramian
Timothy Raupach
Jason Ray
Andrew Reed
Timothy Reed
Amanda Reibly
Teresa Reibly

Matthew Renner
Jeffery Resto
Cheryl Revoir
Lisette Reyes
Ashley Reynolds
Kristy Rhodes
Jennifer Riffle
Melissa Roach

Paul Robertson
Joseph Rodarte
David Rodriguez
Jillian Rodriguez
Richard Rodriguez
Tricia Rogala
Wanda Roldan
Angel Rosales

Jennifer Rosario
Jennifer Rosendaul
Brian Ruch
Steven Rummell
Jennifer Sabovcik
Pedro Saenz
Andrea Salazar
Marc Samardzija

Jessica Sandor
Julie Sapkaroski
David Sarkkinen
Marissa Sauri
Andrew Sayer
Michael Schiller
Cristina Schmal
Jennifer Schmitz

Adam Scholz
Jeremy Schramm
Michael Schramm
Michael Schultz
Kristin Scribner
Joseph Sefcik
Aaron Seibal
James Selvage

Melissa Shadley
Thomas Shane
Dusk Sheaks
Peggy Shelton
Chad Shewmaker
Paul Shinneman
Rocky Shukitis
Justin [illegible]nion

Jason Simcox
Daniel Sims
Nicole Singer
Stephanie Singer
Gurprit Singh
Michael Sipich
Andrea Skafish
Pete Skoutaris

Bryan Slatton
Amanda Smith
Conor Smith
Jeffrey Smith
Kelly Smith
Kyle Smith
Melissa Smith
Michael Smith

Pamela Smith
Tiffany Smith
Christopher Smolnicky
Crystal Smythe
Beverly Sneed
Lynn Sneed
Kari Snoder
Christopher Snow

Adam Snuffer
David Soltys
April Soria
Joshua Spicer
Leeann Spurlock
Craig Stafford
Anthony Stanley
Joseph Stanley

Mandy Stanton
Nicole Startup
Michelle Steege
Genita Steininger
Belinda Stepnowski
Eric Stevenson
Julie Stevenson
Tiffany Stewart

Kevin Stout
Brian Strausbaugh
Jonathan Styers
Stephanie Sulcer
Pamala Sulitz
Patricia Sulitz
Jessica Supp
Tiffany Surer

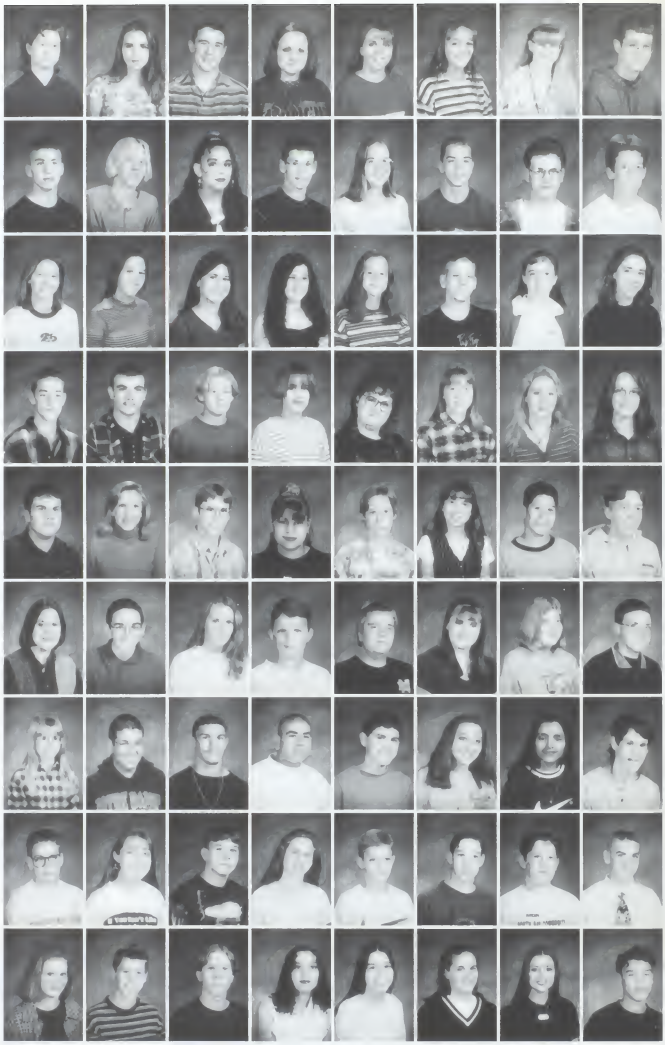
Eric Swanson
Tiffany Swanson
Joshua Swindle
Melissa Swiontek
Brian Talley
Dana Tarin
Joseph Tarin
Robert Taylor

Kristina Teso
Michael Tesseneer
Sara Thatcher
James Thomas III
Terrence Thompson
Heather Tidwell
Danyele Toczek
Daniel Tomes

Pamela Tometczak
Paul Torchia
Alex Torres
David Torres
James Torres
Rosanna Torres
Cynthia Torrez
Christopher Traywick

Phillip Treece, Jr.
Sharalyn Trembicki
Christopher Triber
Tracy Truax
Justin Tucker
Jacob Urban
Shaun Vah
Jeremy Vallo

Piper Van Santen
Donald Vanderploeg
Barry Vanwieren
Tiffany Vargas
Yvette Vasquez
Michelle Vaught
Monica Vega
Mario Villanueva, Jr.



Lester Vaughne
Andrew Volk
Michelle Vottero
Ryan Wall
Courtney Wallace
Jeremy Wallace
Kevin Wallskog
Jessica Walstra

Kathleen Wampler
Heidi Warona
Traci Wartsbaugh
Nicole Warwick
Evan Wasilewski
Holly Waters
Justin Watkins
Kelly Waugaman

Nicholas Wayne
Derrick Weidenaar
Stacey Weimer
Candice Weinman
Henry Weintraub II
Justin Wekluk
Tiffany Weller
Aaron West

Thomas Whiteside
Erin Widing
Stephenie Wilcox
Michael Wilder
Patrick Wilkins
Jessica Willfond
Candice Williams
Amber Wherry

Chandra Williams
Jawanza Williams
Michael Williams
Stephanie Williams
Amanda Wilson
Scot Wilson
Timothy Wilson
Jessica Wireman

William Wise
Jeffrey Wittorp
Jacob Wood
Michael Wood
Nathan Worley
Dawn Wright
Nicole Wright
Jacob Yasko

Erica Yates
Rebecca Zajicek
Amy Zaragoza
Mark Zaragoza
Jeffery Zeha
Eric Zell
Melissa Zimmerman
Brian Zingo

Deanna Zych

Setting new goals

This is how principal Richard Kirchner desribes his job. "Being the principal of a school, is like being a magician who spins those plates on sticks. Each plate is like a different organization, and if too much time is spent keeping one plate up, another will fall," Kirchner said.

Although Kirchner has been a part of the Portage High school system for 26 years, this year was his first year as head principal. At the beginning of the year, he set down a list of goals he wanted to achieve, and by the end of the first semester, he had achieved many of these goals.

"I want to have as much contact as possible with the students," Kirchner said. "One of my goals for this year was to see every athletic team compete at least once. I have achieved that goal. I wanted to get to know as many students as I could, and I feel pretty good about that. I think I'm doing a good job with that so far."

Another goal of Kirchner's was to try to get the faculty more involved with important decisions. "I have been using the department heads to help me to set goals for the future of Portage High School," Kirchner said.

Kirchner's third goal was to work more with assistant principals. "I have already changed the responsibilities of the assistant principals , so I feel like I'm achieving that goal as well."

"My unofficial goal this year is just to survive my first year. There are a lot of new things to do, I just want to stay on top of them, and stay organized. So far I think I've been successful with that," Kirchner said.

By Mary Green

Anne Addis/Secretary
Bonnie Albert/Math
Mary Allison/History
Louise Baker/Secretary
Patricia Benson/English
Barbara Blake/English
William Bodnar/Speech

Christan Bohde/Science
Dennis Bond/History
Donna Broome/Tutor
John Broome/Assistant Principal
Sharon Bronson/German
Ronald Buls/History
Larry Casbon/Athletic Director

Cheryl Clapp/Math
Clara Clark/Math
Jason Cope/English
Sandy Corso/Healt
Lynette Dean/Attendance Office
John DeCoster/Psychology
James Douglas/History

Mary Ann Eckhart/Secretary
Chris Evans/Assistant Principal
Mark Fischer/Vocational Printing
Anne Frost/Math
Julie Goetz/IPR
Penny Gorgei/Secratary
Raymond Grivetti/Music

Marvin Guernsey/Science
Jerry Hale/JROTC
Gil Hamilton/Business
Ron Hancock/Gov./Econ.
Liz Hanlon/LRE
Lori Harris/English
Debra Heitmann/Guidance

Sandra Herr/Secretary
Linda Hicks/Media
Pat Hollingshead/LRE
Lyn Horwith/Secretary
Lynne Huerta/Spanish
Ginger Ingram/Spanish
Cathie Jacobs/English

Roberta Jocius/English
Lowell Johnson/Asst. Principal
Mark Karmel/English
Ella Karris/LRE
Christine Kern/Business
Richard Kirchner/Principal
Les Klein/Asst. Athletic Dir.

Gerri Kotyuk/English
Kathy Kotyuk/English
Arlene Kramer/Media
Judy Krieger/Life Skills
Annette Kulmatycki/Art
Dorothy Kurtz/English
Jane Larson/Business

Alicia Lasky/LRE
Jerry Lasky/Asst. Principal
Linda Lemond/English
Mike Lemond/Economics
Donna Lenburg/Business
Tom Levandowski/P.E.
Shirley Linquist/Business

Mike Lipinski/P.E.
Sara Lux/Guidance
Donna MacArthur/Business
Jill Mangold/English
Kris Marsh/Media
Barbara Mason/English
Sara Lux/Guidance

Mr. James Douglas leads a discussion in his U.S. history class. These discussions were integral to his classes.

Richard Mason/Science
David Masty/French/Chinese
Paula Matteson/Media
Bill Mattix/Sciene
Sue McPherson/French
Phyllis McVicker/P.E.
Dan Merrill/Health

Warren Miller/Music
Terry Milner/Health
Dana Milteer/Special Education
Tom Milteer/Health
Tamara Minks/English
Agripina Monsivais/Spanish
Patrick Moody/English

Lisa Moser/Special Education
Helen Mundell/English
M. Mundt/Math
Arlene Neill/English
Dennis Norman/English
Faye Papalazarou/Math
Robert Parker/History

Sheila Parker/Guidance
Ruth Parks/P.E.
Lori Pavell/Business
Audra Peterson/Dental
Jahna Pollock/English
Robert Prellwitz/Special Education
Caren Prow/Assistant Principal

Christine Pruitt/Social Studies
Linda Racich/Nurse
Jill Redmond/English
Marylene Rhode/West Media
Sharon Rothe/Life Skills
Jim Samuel/Assistant Principal
Jane Schmidt/Math

Mr. Ralph Mundt sits at his desk, while he grades his U.S. history class's papers. Many teachers took time to evaluate assignments while the students worked on their own.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Ms. Theresa Kaminski, a student teacher, teaches her class about Literature. Kaminski taught Mrs.Cathie Jacobs'class, although there were many other student teachers from various colleges and universities throughout the year.

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

Mr. Tom Sanidas, freshman English teacher and freshman boys basketball coach, gets to the point while telling his players the next play.

William Schott/Latin
Darryl Schultz/Math
Kathy Shrader/Math
Raymond Sifrig/Business
Marjorie Slamkowski/Business
Brighette Snemis/ Spanish
Joseph Sparacino/Math

Mary Sparacino/Math
Donna Stambaugh/Eng
Annie Straushaugh/Secretary
Madeline Summers/Guidance
Larry Tharp/Science
Molly Thomas/English
Charles Tomes/Math

Gail Trobaugh/Special Education
Peter Turpa/History
Renee Turpa/History
Donna White/Math
Paula Wiese/Art
Bill Wilke/P.E.
Lynn Wilson/Dental

Robert Wilson/Math
Dawr Yovanovich/Media

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

Ms. Lori Harris, publications adviser and freshman English teacher, talks with Ms. Molly Thomas, a speech teacher. Thomas and Harris were college friends at Indiana University.

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

Mrs. Tamara Minks watches over her students while they do their assignment. Minks was also a sponsor for the Writer's Block club along with Mrs. Helen Mundell.

Mrs. Patty Hollingshed helps sophomore Shane Kary with an assignment. LRE teachers, along with peer tutors, helped and taught LRE students.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Club Connection

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

During the annual ping pong tournament, Mr. Ron Hancock, Student Council sponsor, talks with junior Stephanie Sandor about the player's results. This accomplished many things throughout a year, such as the homecoming dance and the student-teacher social at Christmas.

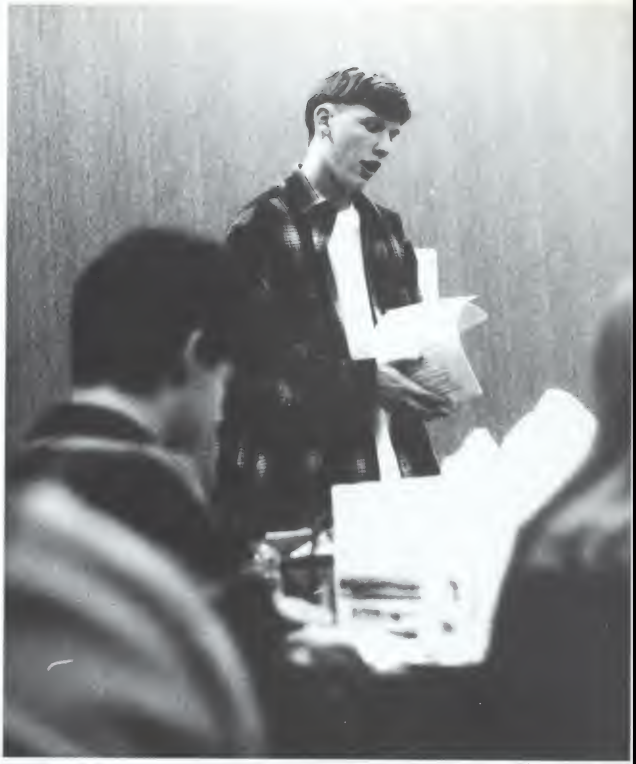
IT'S *all* Connected

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

During one of the SADD/STOP meetings for the High School Heroes program, senior Eric Mason practices the foam lungs. These lungs shows what effectscigarettes can have on lungs. Many students went to the meetings so they could become part of the education process with fifth graders in which the program shows the younger students why not to smoke.

During the National Honor Society Induction, junior Heather Ciesielski and senior Jodi Deckard wait as senior Susan Corley signs her name. NHS required a GPA of 3.3 or higher for acceptance into the club.

Preparing to look over the SADD/STOP constitution, senior Eric Mason, president, converses about amendments he thinks should be made. SADD/STOP, or Students Against Drunk Driving/ Students Taking On Problems, worked most of the second semester trying to put together a working constitution.



(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Going over the Student Council agenda, junior Stephanie Sandor asks about Winter Homecoming. Winter Homecoming was given to Honor Society from Student Council. It was the first time Student Council didn't plan and sponsor Winter Homecoming.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

SADD/STOP - **Front Row:** Cheryl Guzikowski, Stacy Lee. **Second Row:** Cindy York, Rachael Fink, Missy Hansell, Jennie Zielinski, Rhonda Woodke, Megan Cleary, Cathy Zielinski, Wendy York. **Back Row:** Laura Zielinski, Angel Rodriguez, Courtney Shebesh, Mr. Jim Guzikowski, Katie Jurgensen, Mindy Hansell, Stephanie Smock, Curtis Smith, Kathy Rea, Amy Washburn, Amanda Szentesy, Tricia Rogala, Eric Curiel.

Student Court - **Front Row:** Andrea Batista, Umera Malik, Jenny Scegiel, Katie Jurgensen. **Back Row:** Mike Hatala, Mr. James Douglas, Doug Samuel.

Student Council - **Front Row:** Michele Cronch, Stephanie Collins, Jessica Mundell, Eric Mason, Holly Blake, Mary Brown, Monica Essig, Julie Mason. **Second Row:** Elizabeth Slatton, Mandy Cohen, Cathy Zielinski, Jennie Zielinski, Cheryl Guzikowski, Ashley Reynolds, Kris Santonelli, Amber Jacobson, Mr. Ron Hancock. **Third Row:** Brandon Miller, Aaron Galindo, Chris Psihogios, James Espinoza, Stephanie Sandor, Angel Rodriguez, Fahad Javad, Rachel Jamison. **Back Row:** James Jacobs, Shawn Arden, Shane Connell, Dan Barajas, Brad Green, Ryan Mason, Brian Conner.

Taking charge

A hush falls over the students as an earshattering sound of a gavel hits a wooden countertop in the media center. Senior Eric Mason, Student Council president, calls another meeting to order to begin Student Council.

Student Council had many meetings to discuss events the students were to sponsor and run.

Student Council sponsored many dances ranging from the casual Halloween dance to the semi-formal Christmas dance. Students in Student Council also participated in community functions, activities such as going to the nursing home to play Bingo with the residents.

Student Council gave nonmembers a chance to participate in Student Council by asking students to be a "Secret Pal" during the week before Christmas vacation. The students then sent a teacher a gift everyday of the week to support holiday spirit and at the end of that week, teachers found out which student was their secret pal.

Students in Student Coucil had to meet certain expectations. "They have a committment to represent the students in making decisions and organizing activities," said Mr. Ron Hancock, Student Council sponsor.

Student Council had many different branches and committees that were set up to run like the government. One such branch is Student Court. Student Court met regularly to see that Student Council was working within the parameters of the constitution.

Another such club that had been working to try and establish an active constitution and a constitution commitee was SADD/STOP or Students Against Drunken Driving/ Students Taking On Problems.

SADD/STOP also had many activities students got invovled in to help educate the community. One such program was "Celebrate Life," which was a presentation illuminating the life and death of high school students who had chosen to make bad decisions about drugs, alcohol and other tempting endeavors.

"Celebrate Life" was a presentation originally shown at "Snowball", which is a weekend convention for students in SADD/STOP to learn and see the effects of alcoholism and the effects of taking drugs.

Many students enjoy teaching others about the mishaps of bad decisions and hope the work they do will have an influence on the community.

Senior Stacey Lee, SADD/ STOP publicist, said, "I hope to accomplish many community changes through the club as far as substance abuse and lowering it."

By Derinda Smith

Lending support

The smell of warm cookies emanates from room 218. Girls fill into the room before first hour with apples and oranges among other foods and drinks. It is just an average game day for students in Pep club.

The Kotyuks, Gerri and Kathy, are the sponsors of Pep Club and have been for over15 years. Miss Gerri Kotyuk said the purpose of Pep club is to shower support on athletes that do and sometimes don't get that much publicity.

Miss G. Kotyuk said, "Pep club has committees for every sport that is offered. We decorate the football players houses at Homecoming, we sell Mums and we bake for the team. We just try to do our best and show school spirit."

Pep Club was an organization composed of Cheerleaders, Pom Pons and other students who worked to increase school spirit.

The students that were in Pep club chose a sport for each season and they cooked for the members of that team. They brought in foods and drinks that are appropriate for their sport. For instance, wrestlers usually got bottles of Gatorade and a few bags of fruit because they needed to maintain weight. Baseball, on the other hand, didn't really have restrictions on what they could or couldn't eat.

Another club that focused around athletes is Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). FCA gathered every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. for one hour. One part of the hour, members played a game and the other half of the hour they discussed any certain topic. Topics were usually taken from "The Playbook." Mr. Ralph Mundt and his junior son, Nathan, president of FCA, usually decided on the topic. Meetings were ended by a prayer that was usually said by one of the students.

The students in FCA had many activities to involve students throughout the school. Each week FCA would pick athletes of the week; one boy, one girl. Those athletes received a T-shirt, had their picture posted on a bulletin board near the gym, and were recognized over the announcements.

FCA also had many events for fun among the club. In December, the members joined together to watch the Colts vs. Cowboys game in Indianapolis. After the game, students met with the Colts players to discuss feelings about God. The players talked to them about their religion and why thay chose to follow God.

Another club that focused around religion is Prayer. Prayer met every other week, in the mornings before school to discuss feelings and things each student wants to pray for.

Prayer worked to unify the students dispite their differences. Each student had their own personal prayers and shared them with other members if they wished.

By Derinda Smith

Pep Club - Front Row: Valentine Torres, Jessica Mundell, Tina Fingerhoot, Gia Fornari. **Second Row:** Gena Ortiz, Brieanna Lees, Alicia Smith, Julie Castro, Lindsey Klisiak, Wendy Gilbert, Lani Kelly. **Third Row:** Mary Brown, Megan Stout, Jennifer Darnell, Kimberly DeJesus, Jessica Reid, Erin Austgen, Ashley Reynolds, Dionne Gingerich, Cyndi Cochran, Kelly McWilliams. **Fourth Row:** Cheryl Guzikowski, Amber Hammond, April Corso, Amity McKiddy, Robyn Karner, Sydney Hodsden, Mandi Bartok, Stacey Weimer, Heather Andryuk. **Back Row:** Holly Blake, Michelle Barista, Elizabeth Bunker, Amber Riley, Kelly Charbonneau, Michelle Sparks, Jessica Wireman, Piper Van Santen, Monica Essig.

FCA - Front Row: Kathy Rea, Ashley Reynolds, Ryan McGuffey, Nick Munoz, Tom Taylor. **Back Row:** Jeff Fain, Doug Samuel, Nathan Mundt, Chris Westerkamp.

Prayer - Front Row: Zach Zagar, Elsie Espinoza, James Jacobs. **Back Row:** Irvin Santana, Mrs. Bonnie Albert, Aaron Rivera.

Students gather in prayer and rejoice the blessings they have in their lives. Prayer met every other week to join in conversation about their hopes in times to come.

Seniors Gia Fornari, president and Tina Fingerhoot, vice president, listen to students in Pep club calling off committees. There were various committes Pep club was involved in to show school spirit.

Reading off commitee members, juniors Jessica Reid, Amber Riley and Lindsey Klisiak discuss the students that are to bake for the next game. Miss Gerri Kotyuk said Pep club tries their best to support the teams and show school spirit.

Getting through to masses

Communicating through the masses can be hard, especially when there are so many views to look at. When the school publications came, they tried to deal with all sides possible.

The three publications are Saga (literary magazine), Legend (yearbook) and Pow Wow (newspaper).

Senior Jason Sturgeon, who was on all three staffs, said, "It was vividly hellatious because I had so many senior classes, a job, friends and family and it was hard to manage."

Throughout the year, many students described being on publications as either hard, fun, or both. "It was a really fun, learning experience because I learned so much from those around me," junior Mary Green, a Legend staffer, said.

Junior Pow Wow head design editor Mignon Montpetit said being on Pow Wow was demanding "because you must be dedicated. If one staffer didn't finish their work, the rest of the staff had to compensate."

Not only did the publications have their own class hour during the day, but it was sometimes required to stay after school on days of deadlines. Senior Jennifer Buergler said, "It took away a lot of my free time, but was very rewarding. One way it was rewarding was because it helped me tremendously to control my temper." Buergler was editor in chief of the Legend and was the four-year veteran of the yearbook staff.

Although Saga had 10th hour to complete their work, sometimes they stayed after school to complete their main goal, "Our goal was to just complete the Saga, as well as to cope with everyone elses working styles. It was hard because there were a few cliques in the class and we had to get along," senior Stacy Lee said.

With goals and experiences alike, all three staffs worked throughout the year to chronicle the life of a high school student. Senior Pow Wow editor in chief Cheryl Banke said being on Publications was, "... a rollercoaster!"

By Joe Durk

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Arguing over story content for the Christmas issue of the Pow Wow, senior Cheryl Banke and junior Chris Banke both give good points to each other. Cheryl was editor in chief and Chris was head copy editor during the year.

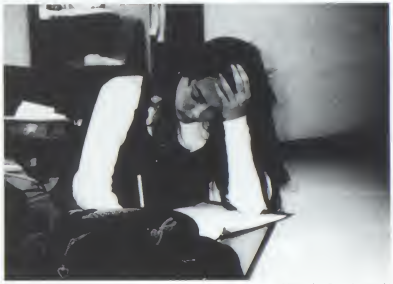
During one of the days that Pow Wow is distributed, sophomore Natalie Huffman checks over pictures that she took. Huffman was the only sophomore photographer on the newspaper staff.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Legend - Front Row: Angel Rodriguez, Kathy Rea, Joe Durk, Alicia Balazs, Jennifer Buergler, Ben Strupeck. **Second Row:** Mary Green, Christina Kostelnik, Stacy Lemley, Missy Bedroya, Melissa Foreman, Derinda Smith. **Back Row:** Rebekah Pelke, Jasom Sturgeon, Barry Wilson, Kristie Gilmore.

Saga - Front Row: Chuck Kukla. **Second Row:** Julie Plunkett, Stephanie Santos, Matt Crizer, Nick Lyman, Jamie Webster. **Third Row:** Lisa Fields, Missy Bedroya, Stacy Porter, Kary Ballas, Stacy Lee, Kathi Martinez. **Back Row:** Ron Holland, Kevin Harding, Renata Jefimenko, Jason Kriess, Kim Mrak, Jaime Monhaut.

Pow Wow - Front Row: Carly Sandt, Cheryl Mullin, Cheryl Banke, Lindsay Najar, Beth Duron. **Second Row:** Larry Massey, Mignon Montpetit, Chris Banke, Shannon Strickland. **Back Row:** Jason Sturgeon, Barry Wilson, Curtis Snellgrove.



(Photo by Ben Strupeck)

As editor in chief of the Legend, senior Jennifer Buergler checks over stories for the mini-deadline at the end of the week. If the staff missed deadlines, they had to work hard to make up the lost time.

During the Legend hour, senior Jason Sturgeon crops a picture for his basketball spread. Sturgeon was the only student to be on all three publications.

(Photo by Ben Strupeck)

French Club - **Front Row:** Heather Danielewicz, Bridgette Swab, Margaret Opolski, Mary Green, Theresa Bickham, Sarah Lerch, Windy Caudill, Madame Sue McPherson. **Back Row:** Amanda Szentesy, Amy Washburn, Stephanie Smock, Missy Bedroya, Curt Smith, Kathy Rea, Dan Fulkerson.

German Club **Front Row:** - Julie Plunkett, Stacy Lee. **Second Row:** Brian Conner, Deanna Zych, Windy Caudill, Christina Stokes. **Back Row:** Kim Mrak, Renata Jefimenko.

Latin Club - **Front Row:** Valeree Nestorovich, Gretchen Circle, Kati Wampler, Stephanie Santos, Cheryl Blackburn, Amy Nelson. **Back Row:** Elaine Geeting, Corey Schumacher, Michelle Pelot, Jennifer Kelly, Brandi Heyse, Katie Parduhn, Jeremy Buckner, Jeannette Hernandez, Tim Nush, Mr.Bill Schott.

Spanish Club - **Front Row:** Kim Mrak, Renata Jefimenko, Christina Stokes. **Back Row:** Kathy Hites.

Senior Windy Caudill attends a Spanish Club meeting. Spanish Club, like the other foreign language clubs, usually met once a month. During meetings, members discussed future plans, activities and the culture of the country where their language is spoken.

(Photo by William Busch)

Connected by Language

(Photo by William Busch)

Amanda Szentesy enters Madame Sue McPherson's classroom in order to attend a French Club party. The Foreign Language Clubs had numerous parties, usually to celebrate their corresponding country's holidays.

One student stands at the front of the room, making a few announcements. After announcements are made, students sit at the desks in the classroom, socializing. This may sound like any extracurricular club, but, chances are, an outsider walking into this room wouldn't understand a word of what's being said.

Of all of the extracurricular clubs available, few were open to just anyone. The foreign language clubs were a few of the exceptions. Although each club usually consisted mostly of students who took the corresponding foreign language in class, membership was open to any student with an interest in the language.

Foreign language clubs also gave students the opportunity to meet with students who had some common interests. Sophomore Ralfie Hamerski, Latin Club member, said " I had a lot of fun and made a lot of friends through the Latin Club this year."

The clubs are also an opportunity for students to be active in the community. Sue McPherson, French Club sponsor, said, "It gives [students] a chance to do fun things and things in the community. We do the Woodland Park Haunted Hayride at Halloween, as well as other activities."

By Mary Green

(Photo by William Busch)

Senior Kim Mrak, junior Tracy Timpe and junior Christina Stokes discuss a Spanish Club shopping trip. The foreign language clubs went on various trips during the school year.

Making the grade

Keeping grades up, conjugating verbs, learning office ways, and learning journalistic styles. Sound tough? Well yes; students who excel in their school work and are interested have the opportunity to be in honors clubs such as Foreign Language Honor Society, National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, and Business Proffessionals of America.

Juniors and seniors who keep at least a 3.3 GPA are accepted into the National Honor Society. NHS does several activities throughout the year to keep their members busy. The organization recognizes all teachers, make, new teacher survival kits, and had fundraisors.

This year 122 students made the prerequisites and joined NHS. Junior Becky Easton said, "I study and do my homework each night to keep my grades up." All members must do 20 hours of service work a semester to stay a member.

Unlike NHS, Foreign Language Honor Society is not an organization that meets often. Actually FLHS has one activity, the induction ceremony. French teacher, Madame Sue McPherson says, "The ceremony is lovely with the candles, the students dressed up, and the reception with the parents." To be inducted you must be in the third year of a language, and have had at least three semester As. Sophomore and Spanish student Abbey Kay said, "To keep an A I try to listen in class and do my homework. It is really easy to write and read Spanish, but it is hard to listen and speak in another language."

Spanish teacher Mrs. Lynn Huerta said FLHS was organized because, "We're proud of the kids; it's not easy. We wanted to recognize those who did well in their language."

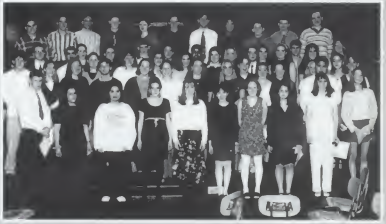
Quill and Scroll is yet another honor society. It honors the journalism students who are in the top one third of their class and uphold good publications grades. The new members are voted on by the current members and are initiated at a banquet. Senior and editor of Pow Wow Cheryl Banke said, "It was neat to pass Q&S on to the new members. It is a great program that honors those who went above and beyond in publications and to let their talents shine."

Business Professionals of America is an organization that helps students become better leaders, and learn more about business. Students must have typing skills, business classes, and know and be interested in furthering their business knowledge to become a member.

BPA had several fundraisors to improve their skills. They sold balloons, tattoos, donuts, T-shirts and sweatshirts. Several members also participated in competitions and three made it to the state competition in Phoenix. Senior Lindsay Saviola said, "It is alot of fun if you're interested in buiseness. I enjoyed it."

By Kathy Rea

National Honor Society-Front Row: Keli Schmidt, Katy Ostertag, Alan Washburn, Tiffany Kirchner, Dana Rogers, Shana Pollock, Louis Varner, April Russ, Kris Santonelli, Derek Hart, Jeff King, Stacey Smolnicky, Jodie Deckard, Elizabeth Slatton, Megan Kester, Cindy Bickham, Cristal Durfee, Liz Garner, Jessica Mundell, Tina Fingerhoot, Eric Mason, Erika Murrow, Kirstin Mead, Becky McDougal. **Second Row:** Brandie Rootkie, Amy Scribner, Heather Johnston, Karl Brown, Andrea Batista, Kim Mrak, Kaimi Blaha, Jeremy DeHaven, Chad Franks, Shawn Arden, Mike Hatala, Karl Cheng, Christie Lovings, Sarah Murphy. **Third Row:** Jessica Hufford, Sydney Hodsden, Samantha Hosden, Juan Hinojosa, Shawn Heyse, Jenannette Hernandez, Cyndi Hatala, Meagan Gerkin, Joe Gabey, Nikki Floyd, James Espinoza, Derek Demmon, Sean Davis-Cohen, Heather Ciesielski, Susan Corley, Amanda Cichowlaz, Aaron Chinn, Matt Atherton, Heather Andryuk, Marissa Anderson. **Forth Row:** Mr. Dennis Norman, Elizabeth Orsolini, Margaret Opolski, Misty Oatsvall, David Nelson, Sarah Natalie, Jill Murray, Nathan Mundt, Mignon Montpetit, Lisa Minor, Brandon Miller, Ryan McGuffet, Michelle Lilly, Dessa Lewandowski, Jeff Levenda, Kristin Lee, Mike Krueger, Joy Kreeji, Maggi Kirk, David King, Windy Caudill, Mike Kelley, Nord Joseph, Joe Hunt. **Back Row:** Kristin Zurcher, Mike Wilson, Melissa Virden, Ryan VanAuken, Sonja Sturges, Ben Strupeck, Melissa Spence, Sonia Soto, Tim Slamkowski, Melanie Shultz, Eric Serrano, Katie Schott, Stephanie Santos, Stephanie Sandor, Doug Samuel, Amber Riley, Jaclyn Repay, Ed Recktenwall, Amanda Palmateer, Julie Plunkett.



Foreign Language Honor Society - First Row: Matt Atherton, Jeannette Hernandez, Angi Rodriguez, Jennifer Cavezza, Lisa Minor, Cindy Bickham, Liz Mirr, Cindy Grunden, Erin Johnston, Katie Siminski. **Second Row:** George Sabo, Shannon Meyer, Jacki Merack, Joe Hunt, Stephanie Clark, Abbey Marcincovih, Heather Campbell, Missy Lilly, Ryan Sweeney, Tessie Frechette, Brandi Rootkie, Marco Covarrubias, Leslie Coello, Liz Cattani. **Third Row:** Ignosio Sanchez, Abe Pomales, Cyndi Hatala, Mignon Montpetit, Kathy Ostrander, Jenny Mauck, Brian Conner, Amy Whirworth, Larry Massey, Cathy Campbell, Fahad Javed, Elizabeth Bunker, Courtney Sebish, Chad Gerhart, Cathy Zielinski, Abby Kay, Scott McDonald, Gia Fornari, Jenny Siminski. **Back Row:** Jeff Levenda, Johann Breunig, Brian Bauer, Mike Hatala, Dawn Pappas, Dan Kaminski, Eric Mason, Liz Garner, Ryan McGuffey, Charlie Greer, Jason Savy.

Just inducted into Quill and Scroll, sophomore Mary Green receives a service award from senior and editor in chief Jenn Buergler. Each publications staff editor handed out a variety of awards at the induction banquet.

Lighting her candle off of new FLHS member next to her, sophomore Tessie Frechette gets inducted into the honors foreign language program. FLHS was established to congratulate those students who excel in foreign languages.

At a National Honor Society meeting senior Julie Plunkett listens to Mr. Dennis Norman talk about upcoming events. NHS had 122 members who had achieved at least a 3.3 GPA throughout the year.

Expanding ideas

With a pencil or switch in hand and a flick of the wrist the creative juices flow. Expanding their ideas either through writing or video productions is a way many students spend their time after school on Wednesdays in Writer's Block or Video Club.

Expressing thoughts through writing or poetry is not the only thing members of Writer's Block do. They also help each other work on their writings. In a very laid back atmosphere, every other Wednesday, members meet in 219 to share their current works. Senior Bridgette Swab said, "The club gives me a chance to get support and/or constructive criticism from my peers about my writing." Almost all of what is written is not for school but for leisure writings, which is not to say Writer's Block won't listen to writing assignments. However, members of Writer's Block just bring in their work they write because they want to write. Senior Jason Sturgeon and junior Lisa Collins were the head of the club and organize refreshments, announcements and meetings. Often the club meets at places other than school. They have meet at Front Porch, Wingfields and the now-closed Grateful Hearts. At meetings writers can listen or present and if they want can get help from their fellow writers. "The atmosphere is really laid back and calm. It makes you feel really comfortable with the people around you," said sophomore Heather Danielwicz. Although this is Writer's Block's second year there have been few problems. "One problem we've had is when we meet and no one has written anything new," said Swab. Writer' Block helps in many ways. Danielwitz said, "It has helped me improve my writing. The people in the club are really supportive." Sponsored by Mrs. Tamara Minks and Mrs. Helen Mundell Writer's Block is one way to help stidents writing improve. Minks said, "Writer's Block isn't only for those who write but also for students who want to share works of favorite authors."

However, writing is not the only way to expand on ideas. Another popular way is through video productions. Video club for four years now has produced several school productions including Spirit Week, Football Highlights, Outstanding Young Man and much more. The members also can work on personal videos.

Mr. Bob Beigh the sponsor says, "I started the club when I began Communications Technology class and a group of students wanted a way to expand on the learning obtained in that class. Beigh help students learn how to use video cameras, editing equipment and other equipment needed in video productions. President and member for three years, Kim Gorgei said, "All that is needed to join is discipline and motivation." The club meets every Wednesday after school in room 108. Beigh says, "Each year the students seem to be more talented and more interested about video production. The student leadership has been very involved in planning and organizing activities."

By Kathy Rea

Preparing for the current production, junior Kim Gorgei, adjusts the focus on the video camera. Gorgei, as president, handed out assignments to the members of Video Club.

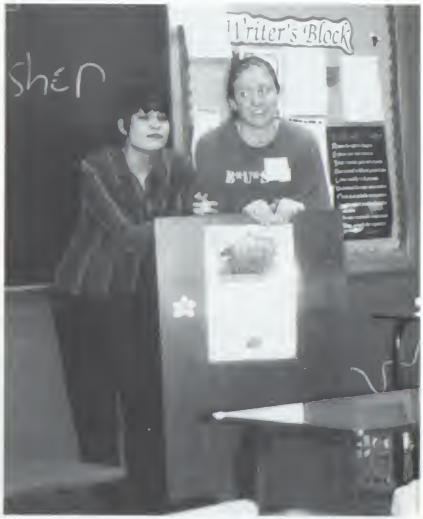
Writer's Block - First Row: Belinda Stepnowski, Bridgette Swab, Mary Green, JR Joseph, Bobby Metz. **Second Row:** Daniel Crawford, Stephanie Santos, Rachel Wilson, Heather Danielewicz, Mauro Colunga, Nick Lyman. **Back Row:** Tenee Dutcher, Lisa Collins, Jason Sturgeon, Mrs. Helen Mundell, Mrs. Tamara Minks, Carina Simmons, Sarah Noll, Julie Plunkett.

Video Club -First Row: Kim Gorgei, Jennifer Bush. **Back Row:** Percy Martinez, Kris Boruff.

In one of the Video Club work rooms, freshman Fawnda Burlingame talks on the phone to get information for one of the productions. Video Club produces many of the schools videos throughout the school year.

Editing one of his videos, sophomore Kris Boruff, works with the equipment Mr. Bob Beigh taught the members how to use. Many video club members not only made videos for the school but also for their own projects.

Discussing a possible Chicago trip, junior Elizabeth Verbich, and junior Lisa Collins lead the Writer's Block meeting. At Writer's Block meeting members recieved help on their current works from their peers.



Writer's Block members, senior Mauro Colunga and sophomore Heather Danielwicz listen to a fellow member read their work. Writers Block was set in a relaxed atmosphere making it easier for members to share their ideas.

Seniors Shawn Stutler and Julie Castro join sophomore Heather Bush in a scene during the production of "Dracula." Many of the Thespians were involved in productions put on by the school.

Speech/Debate Team
Front Row: Kim Gorgei, Jaime Webster, Heather Granzow, Andrea Batista. **Back Row:** Coach Molly Thomas, Coach Helen Mundell, Craig Golbeski, Coach Mark Karmel, Coach Linda Hicks.

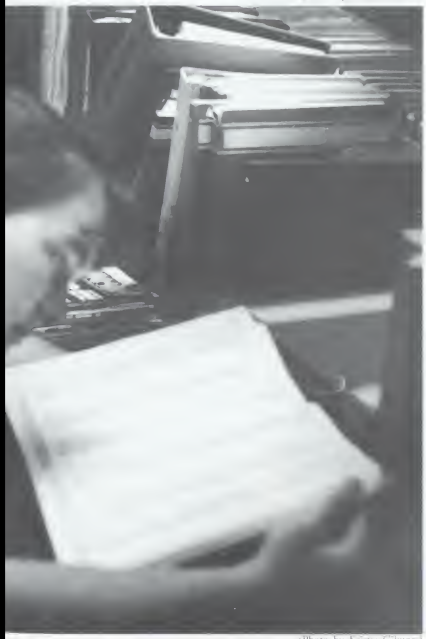
Thespians
Front Row: Jennifer Johnson, Susan Corley, Megan Nelson, Amanda Cohen, Julie Castro. **Back Row:** Bryan Conger, Alan Washburn, Shawn Stutler, Stacey Smolnicky.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

During the performance of "Godspell," sophomore Megan Nelson begins her solo. Every primary cast member had a solo performance.

Junior Kim Gorgei researches in the media center for an upcoming speech. Adequate preparation was a vital piece of the Speech Team's success.

(Photo by Lauren McCall)



(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

Overcoming Anxiety

A student stands up, butterflies fluttering in his stomach as frogs, threatening to damage his performance, creep up from his throat. These are just a couple of situations that both the Speech Team and Thespians must overcome in their quest for excellence.

Senior Heather Granzow, president of the Speech Team, felt that the team had faced many setbacks. Granzow said, "We lost a lot of seniors last year, and we are going through a major power change because Mrs. [Linda] Hicks stepped down [from head coach]."

Speech Team members still had coaches Mr. Mark Karmel, Mrs. Helen Mundell and Ms. Molly Thomas to aid them in preparation for competition.

According to Mundell, each practice lasted about 20 minutes and practices were held twice per week. Mundell said, "We expect them to practice at home and to incorporate the coaches' advice into their performances."

According to Granzow, the only prerequisite to be in Speech Team was dedication.

Another club existed in which anyone could join, providing that he or she was dedicated. The Thespians required that members sell ads for productions, participate in shows, whether it be ushering, stage work, or acting, and according to senior Alan Washburn, "You must have fun."

Senior Kaimi Blaha, a thespian of four years, said, "More people should be involved in the theatrical program. It gives the citizens of Portage something to watch besides football."

Washburn felt that the low number of members this year had to do with many misconceptions that were dispersed around the school. Washburn said, "We had a lot of jokes about the name and most people think you have to be able to act."

According to Washburn, a lot more occurs backstage than on stage, which is just as important to the production as acting.

by Jason Sturgeon

Senior Karl Cheng and junior Luke Weinman present an experiment to teachers from all over Indiana. The Chemistry is Fun team traveled to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to present experiments for teachers that they could do with their own students.

Sophomore Jennie Zielinski and freshmen Dawn Butterfiled and Jessica Walstra attentively listen to upcoming activities for the H.O.P.E. Club. The H.O.P.E. Club met every Thursday in room A22, and were involved in the weekly recycling program.

Hope- Front Row: Karl Cheng, Michelle Brigham, Carrie Schnelle, Dawn Watson, Jennie Zielinski, Candice Williams, Stefani Ragon. **Second Row:** Mrs. Roberta Jocius, Cathy Zielinski, Stephanie Smock, Amy Washburn, Amanda Szentesy, Rachel Fink, Megan Cleary, Kathy Camisa, Mr. Richard Mason.

Science Club - Front Row: Louis Varner, Luke Weinman, Sarah Natalie, Elizabeth Mirr. **Second Row:** Stephanie Smock, Amy Washburn, Abby Kay, Chris Psihogios, Andrea Cardenas, Stacey Durr, Jenny Urchick. **Back Row:** Ricky Newman, Katy Osterrag, Matt Movre.

Seniors Karl Cheng, David King and Dawn Watson listen to announcements for upcoming projects for the H.O.P.E. Club. The club is organized to promote environmental awareness.

Sophomore Cathy Zielinski gives a speech on why she wants to be the new H.O.P.E. Club vice-president. New officers were elected at the end of the year to get things started for the upcoming year.

Hope for the future

The stench of sulfuric acid stings noses. Twenty-five students stand in groups with protective goggles and aprons on as they watch classmates mix chemicals in an attempt to make something new and exciting.

In December, the Science Club put on a Chemistry is Fun show at the high school to demonstrate that learning is more than just listening to a lecture but, actually enjoying what you are learning about.

"The Chemistry is Fun team is a group of bright students with a strong interest in making Chemistry enjoyable for students and teachers alike," Mrs. Patricia Strawbridge said.

The Science Club also went to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Wabash and Indianapolis for Chemistry workshops where they taught teachers different experiments they could take back to their home schools to teach their students.

Another club organized to promote learning is the HOPE Club. The HOPE Club, Helping Our Planet's Environment, is designed to raise students awareness of their environment and to show that everyone can do something to help.

"We are basically just a bunch of people getting together for the same cause to have fun and to try to make our environment just a little better," president Jamie Webster said.

Among the many activities the HOPE Club was involved in this year one of the most successful was the recycling program. When teachers put out those heavy bins of recyclable papers the members of the Hope Club can be thanked.

The HOPE Club is also responsible for keeping Highway 6 and Airport Road litter free in conjunction with the "Adopt A Highway" program.

By Melissa Foreman

The "Chemistry is Fun" team went to the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to put on a demonstration show. Sophomore Karla Brown explains an experiment that teachers can do with their students to try to make learning more enjoyable.

In the Line of Duty

For the members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), being a part of the military isn't a possibility. It's a part of life.

Although JROTC was run like the military, fewer than 5 percent of the cadets enlisted after gradution. JROTC was geared to instill positive qualities in students, rather than to prepare them for a military career. Major Jerry Hale said, "The course name is really a misnomer, a better name would be leadership and character education."

JROTC members practiced four mornings a week from 6 to 7 a.m. and took classes in leadership, following orders and character development. "The classes are geared toward teaching self-discipline, respect and self-esteem," Hale said.

Seniors who were involved in the JROTC program played unique roles. They worked with the basic running of the program. They conducted drills and held leadership positions. "The senior class was great. They utilized their previous experience and implemented it successfully," Hale said.

Freshman Nicole Wright thought that this year was a success, "We worked hard and it was a great year."

The program was also successful in Hale's opinion, "It's been a very successful year. We had 126 cadets this year, we expect to have 150 cadets next year. The program is growing. JROTC is an integral part of the Portage High School curriculum."

By Mary Green

JROTC member senior Steve Winicky stands at attention during a drill, while senior takes notes. Cadets participated in drills during daily practices.

(Photo by Samantha Ortma

JROTC LE 1-3 - First Row: Phillip Treece, Dawn Wright, Amanda McTaggart, Sarah Natalie, Alice Russ, Marshall Kimbrough, Hope Ewing, Melissa Shadley. **Second Row:** Jimmy Martus, Krista Napier, Becky Hall, Christine Chapman, Dan Sims, Shawn Chavez, Nicole Wright. **Third Row:** Bryan Stewart, Nick Byroad, Brandon Cotton, Jeff Camp, Greg Mays, Joe Cauley, Anthony Stanley, Ricky Rodriguez.

JROTC LE 1-3 - First Row: Bob Rossman, Bridget Ripperdan, Devon Lilly, Shannon Gillie, Kelley Harth, Lisa Marie Baleish, Ryan Parker. **Second Row:** Josh Lusco, Keith Kerr, Jeremy Zeha, Joey Tarin, David Pioch, Douglas Walstra. **Third Row:** Mike Schramm, Paul Torchia, David Jones, Chad Thompson, Martin Knight, Paul Jarrell, David Sultzer.

JROTC LE 2 - **First Row:** Regina Muth. **Second Row:** Major Jerry Hale, Jacki Rattray, Melissa Lowe. **Third Row:** Ross Meyer, Sherry Lytel, Shannon Russum.

JROTC LE 4 Seniors - **First Row:** Krysta Rousseau, April Russ, Mandy Shultz, Abraham Pomales, Kelly Creech. **Second Row:** Major Jerry Hale, Doris Perez, Shawn Russum, Terrence Oslizlo, Sean Davis-Cohen, James Daniel, Steve Winicky, Sara Dexter.

Senior Sean Davis-Cohen drills JROTC members sophomores Jacki Rattray, Melissa Lowe and Tim Gizmar. Seniors played the leadership roles in the JROTC program.

(Photo by Samantha Ortman)

Lung Power

Do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do. This is the sound of choirs warming up. Choirs consisted of Symphonic Choir, Concert Choir, Girls Glee and Choraliers. All four choirs are conducted by Mr. Warren Miller.

Many choir singers have enjoyed singing for many years. "I sing because I feel that it is the only thing that I'm good at," Sophomore Megan Nelson said. Nelson has been singing since she was 3 years old.

There are other reasons that students sing. Many of them feel that it relaxes them and lets them express themselves while others sing because it is fun. "I sing because it is a lot of fun and my friends are in it," freshman Ashley Reynolds said.

A few others do not really have a reason for joining choir. "I joined in sixth grade because I needed a space filled on my schedule," junior Samantha Hodsden said.

The symphonic choir once again placed first at the ISSMA State competition. This year also meant making new friends and working as a team to achieve a goal.

Singing for an audience is something that many choir members enjoy and look forward to doing. Every spring some of these students step out and audition for the musical. This musical was no exception. The spring production of "Godspell" was led by more than 20 choir members that made up the chorus. "I like being in musicals and preforming," Nelson said. She also participated in "Fiddler on the Roof" during summer theater.

By Missy Bedroya

Working together with choraliers teacher Mr. Warren Miller, senior Rhonda Sulcer, junior Amity McKiddy, and freshman Andrea Skafish practice a song. Miller teaches all of the choir classes.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelk)

Warming up their voices during class, the concert choir prepares to sing. Some students from choir classes participated in the spring production of "Godspell."

(Photo by Rebekah Pelk)

Symphonic Choir-Front Row: Amber Bogald, Lori Brown, Susan Corley, Mandi Cohen, Rhonda Sulcer, Heather Johnston, Deanna Zych, Amity McKiddy, Kris Santonelli, Marissa Vallejo. **Second Row**: Joaquin Bedolla, James Jacobs, Windy Caudill, Tiffany Stewart, Julie Castro, José Torres, Patrick Sanchez, Kaimi Blaha, Stephaine Sulcer, Michelle Sparks. **Third Row**: Joseph Ozug, Meaghan Husted, Kim Dudek, Bryan Conger, Jim Crowley, Robert Oakes, Andrea Skafish, Veronica Gonzalez, Melissa Virden, Amanda Siroky, Inna Ryazanova. **Back Row**: Jay Fields, Brandon Miller, Megan Nelson, Edger Hilzley, Ruben Mendez, April Grasham, Shawn Heyse, Nathanial Clough, Scott Matlock, Frank Essany, Ryan VanAuken.

Choraliers-Front Row: Rhonda Woodke, Marissa Vallejo, Cindy Bickham. **Second Row**: Mandi Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Ashley Reynolds, Erin Austgen. **Back Row**: Rhonda Sulcer, Megan Nelson, Heather Johnston, Stephanie Waugh, Amity McKiddy, Brenda Manion, Andrea Skafish.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Concert Choir-Front Row: Alice Farr, Jodi Haack, Stefanie Ragon, Robyn Karner, Sara Thatcher, Emily Craighead, Kim Carpenter, Heather Jaques, Misty Coleman. **Second Row**: Heather Golec, Sandra Alfaro, Tiana Hardesty, Brandy Obling, Tami Hasse, Heather Kilgore, Brandy Earl, Michelle Vottero, Megan Cleary, Krisy Boggs, Lisa Cohen, Jessica Kroledegge, Liz Wireman, Cari Daniel, Marie Flores. **Third Row**: Lisa Fields, Amanda Potts, Stacy Iliff, Krista King, Teresa Nichols, Theresa Muñoz, Tina DeLos Santos, Brandi Heyse, Kristi Teso, Sebrina Leto, Rachel Hood, Heather Bennett, Elizabeth Dillman, Denise Rambo, Lanya Doss. **Fourth Row**: Nicole Singer, Krista Napier, Jocelyn Adamski, Chrissy McCart, Melissa Monette, Rachel Grant, April Adkins, Krissi Prell, Shannon O'Connor, Susan Newlin, Ginger Lapine, Jennifer Kozik, Shaun Crider, Melissa Lloyd, Melissa Cowsert, Dawn Tucker. **Back Row**: Kirk Lyon, Stephanie Waugh, Corry Foster, Heather Leon, Tony Banks, Liz Anderson, Jay Bedolla, Brandi Jones, Steve Banke, Dylan Hinton, Ryan VanAuken, Rich Ostertag, Julie Odgerton, Frank Essany, Natasha Erdelen, Chad Wright, Kimberly Kehoe, Anthony Stanley.

Girls' Glee-Front Row: Jessica Arredondo, Juleen Pezel, Kris Hasselgren, Erin Austgen, Richelle Ashby, Samantha Hodsden, Brenda Manion, Kim Spoa, Ashley Reynolds, Shannon Longmore. **Second Row**: Roxanne Shukitis, Evana Torres, Tiana Lugo, Tina Durham, Jessica Becke, Kelly Buham, Lydia Gonzalez, Jackie Alfaro, Karen Piatek, Carrie Schnelle, Amanda Hise, Petra DeJesus. **Third Row**: Lana Siegel, Jen Martinez, Rosemary Rublacava, Jennifer Johnson, Jill Childers, Loretta Jacobs, Stephanie Huffman, Keri-Ann Baldrige, Christie Crider, Doris Perez, Jessica Low, Tina Fingerhoot, Andrea Connelly, Jennie Zielinski. **Back Row**: Melissa Dolby, Stephanie Smock, Julie Scholz, Nikki Wininger, Krissy Manion, Glodia Tufoga, Sarah Noll, Heather Ruse, Laura Gonzalez, Betty Banks, Hollie Fleming, Christina Looney, Valeree Nestorovich, Sabrina Strong, Jessica Zireman.

Practicing a song during class, the concert choir works toward perfection. The concert choir put on many performances during the year for audiences of all ages.

Junior Tracie Timpe reviews her Pep Band music as Sophomore Rhonda Woodke practices parts of a song. Although Pep Band, unlike Marching Band, is allowed to use sheet music during performances, thorough practice is still necessary in order to know the music well.

Marching on

It's halftime at a football game, and you're heading to the concession stands when somethimg draws your eyes back to the field. The rhythmic beat of the drums, the triumphant sound of the horns and a sea of uniformed students giving all they've got for anyone who cares to watch.

Marching and Pep Bands were a staple of school spirit at football and basketball games.

Sophomore Stephanie Waugh said, "You really get into the school spirit. I felt special because I was a part of it."

Mr. Troy Webdell, director of the Marching and Pep Bands, said, "Helping to support the athletic teams is a big part of our job, but there's more that the students get out of it. There's a lot of real life experience involved."

Besides supporting the school, members of these bands took place in community activities, such as parades, and competed on many different levels against other schools.

"The band achieved the highest scores in PHS history and set several records. This was a particularly good season," Junior Josh Eyermann said.

Webdell added, "Other than the musical gains, students also develop character, grow up faster and take on responsibilities. They are really allowed to excel and they gain some important values."

Senior Shaun McCance agreed. "I have learned discipline, responsibility and musicianship," he said.

Many band members were in both Marching and Pep Bands. The differences went beyond playing for basketball games instead of football games.

Eyermann said, "Pep Band is a lot more relaxed, while Marching Band is more of a challenge."

Whether in Marching band, Pep Band, or both, students seemed to find common rewards for all the effort put forth.

"It was lots of fun. The rewards are making close friends and great memories," Junior Heather Ciesielski said.

Waugh said, "You get to make new friends and feel the school pride."

Webdell agreed with the students. "These bands really create a sense of unity. They work together like a family, not just a bunch of people."

By Elizabeth Verbich

Freshman Paul Robertson, sophomore Danielle Pickart, eighth-grader Chad Copeland, and freshman Sabrina Leto proudly display the Marching Indians banner at a parade. The Marching Band perfomed at parades in various places, including Portage, South Haven, Valparaiso and Ogden Dunes. Some middle school students got started in Marching band as early as eighth grade.

Freshman Fawnda Burlingame plays a piece on her flute during a Pep Band practice. Pep Band practices were before basketball games.

Pep Band - Front Row: Keri-Ann Baldridge, Kari Snoder, Rhonda Woodke, Annette Munoz, Christina Stokes, Peggy Shelton, Sara Thatcher, Cathy Camery. **Second Row:** Amy Rivera, Jennifer Wayte, Tom Labus, Robert Cox, Carrie Schnelle, Jon Hoover, Heather Jaques, Kelli Hale, Brandy Earl, Sebrina Leto, Amanda Hise. **Third Row:** Moises Otero, Robert Oakes, Rob Covington, Josh Eyermann, Mark Williams, Margaret Opolski, Holleah Hitchcock, Trisha Eastwood, Shawn Arden, Steven Renner, Brian Zingo, Paul Shinneman, Jeremy Kaiser, Gabriel Chaddock. **Back Row:** Joe Holloway, Dan Fulkerson, Adam Scholz, Rachel Hood, Jennifer Pisinski, Melissa Fritz, Angel Chavez, Liz Cattani, Tricia Muntz, Don Woodke, Cathy Zielinski, Jason Copeland, Kevin Kosovich.

Marching Band - Front Row: Christina Stokes, Craig Stafford, Tandye Rowe, Kim Haskell, Danielle Pickart, Chad Copeland, Leslie Coello, Sabrina Leto. **Second Row:** Corrinne Knoll, Jennifer Capp, Michelle Kniola, Annette Munoz, Chris Koller, Elizabeth Bobb, Rob Covington, Ted Nazjer, Donald Woodke, Joe Holloway, Kevin Watson. **Third Row:** Michelle Brigham, Windy Caudill, Terry Lesko, Jennifer Wayte, Erin Johnston, Heather Johnston, Jennifer Pazinski, Holleah Hitchcock, Trisha Eastwood, Fawnda Burlingame, Cheryl Blackburn, Paul Robertson, Gabe Chaddock, Dan Garris, Leah Huddlestone. **Fourth Row:** Margaret Opolski, Lisa Butala, Jessica Barniville, Bill Mick, Stephanie Waugh, Carrie Schnelle, Robert Cox, Josh Eyermann, Mark Williams, Rhonda Woodke, Jennifer Cuzma, Tracie Timpe, Melissa Blanton, Melissa Fritz, Laura Zielinski, Shaun McCance, Kristy Hessletine. **Fifth Row:** Brian Zingo, Kevin Brown, Jen Fox, Brandy McLean, Debbie Lesko, Tricia Muniz, Kevin Kosovich, Jennifer Johnston, Dawn Watson, Brandy Earl, Belinda Stepnowski, Heather Ciesielski, Mark Gronck, Susan Corley, Tom Labus, Angel Chavez, Liz Cattani, Jason Rhea, Chris Chapman, Tony Juliana, Kristi Hughes, Sarah MacMillan. **Last Row:** Kyle Smith, Eric Serrano, Curtis Smith, Joe Auskalnis, Amy Rivera, John Ray, Sarah Bradford, Steve Renner, Shawn Arden, Peggy Shelton, Sara Thatcher, Cathy Camery, Cathy Zielinski, Jenny Zielinski, Heather Jaques, Kelli Hale, Jeremy Kaiser, Chris Beach, Jason Copeland, Robert Oakes, Jennifer Christian, Amanda Hise, Paul Shinneman, Dan Moore.

Moving to the Beat

With a relaxed atmosphere, Mr. Robert Symer, Jazz Band director, confronts the eager jazz members to begin another session of "Jazz in the Commons." The music seems to cause a mellow feeling among the spectators. Having left their cares outside of the front entrance, the foot-tapping music seems to emanate into the dimmed air.

Much preparation was invested into a single public performance. Members of the Jazz Band gave an average of five days practice every day after school and additional time at home for personal rehearsal.

In order to be fully prepared for either a festival or a concert, Symer said that six weeks of solid work go into the preparation. But some members of the Jazz Band feel that this responsibility is worth the time spent.

According to sophomore Liz Cattani, all of the practice and devotion to the Jazz Band pays off during performances.

Cattani said, "Performances are moments of truth when all of the hard work and practicing pays off. They give me a great feeling after they are over."

With only being involved in a small number of actual competitions, some members of the band feel that the competition is not against other bands or schools.

Junior Rob Covington, who has played the drums for six years, said, "You compete against yourself more than you do anyone else."

Cattani added, "The band doesn't actually compete with other bands, our band is against ourself. It's a test to see how well we have prepared and can perform."

Through much practice and determination, Jazz Band II achieved elite levels of excellence, by receiving perfect scores at the ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) and won the outstanding band award at the Forte Wayne Jazz Fest.

When asked about Symer's directing/teaching ability, sophomore Maegan Wendt said, "Mr. Symer doesn't really direct, except for when we get a new song. At concerts, he just starts us and then stands back and listens."

By Jason Sturgeon

Jazz Band I - Front Row: Eric Serrano, Chris Huerta, Tiffany Kirchner, Derek Hart, Annette Muñoz, Mark Gronek. **Second Row:** Karl Brown, Shawn Arden, Michelle Harman, Chris Beach. **Third Row:** Marcus Gilbert, Tricia Muniz, Kevin Brown, Alan Washburn, Christina Timmons, Curtis Smith, Gabriel Chaddock. **Back Row:** Mr. Robert Symer.

Jazz Band II - First Row: Ron Holland, Ryan Bull, Kevan Watson, Kevin Flick, Rob Covington. **Second Row:** Liz Cattani, Donald Woodke, Maegan Wendt, Carlos Diaz. **Third Row:** Ron Boozer, Scott Moehl, Brandy McLean, Debbie Lesko, Vonnie Loeffler, Jeremy Kaiser. **Last Row:** Bob Baldwin, Toby Provins, Mr. Robert Symer.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Mr. Robert Symer leads Jazz Band II in a standard rehearsal. Practice was a key element to the sucess of the Jazz Band.

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

(Photo by Lindsay Najar)

Sophomore Kevin Flick plays along with the Jazz Band. According to the director, Mr. Robert Symer, each instrument was important for performances.

Sophomore Liz Cattani rehearses her solo for a session of "Jazz in the Commons." This was the 16th year that the Jazz program held the "Spring Swing."

Creating harmony

The Concert and Symphonic bands had a busy year. They had to prepare for the District contests, concerts, and the students who were involved in Solo Ensemble had to practice for it also.

Concert and Symphonic bands had similar events to get ready for, but Symphonic Band had harder music and was harder to get in.

Many students got involved in band because they love music and band makes it fun for them.

Sophomore Danielle Pickart said, "I love music and you can express yourself."

Some students enjoyed band because it had a lot to offer them. "I'm in many of the bands. Band has a lot of opportunities," senior Jennifer Fox said.

Most of the band members agreed that it takes a lot of dedication and practicing for the many contests and concerts.

Senior Liz Cattani said, "It takes a lot of hard work."

The bands prepare for contest mainly by practicing their music. "We site read and practice our music," sophomore Tricia Munoz said.

Many people agreed. Pickart also said, "We have to practice on our own and in class.

Some students weren't sure if they'd do well at contest. Munoz said, "At first we thought we weren't going to do get a first."

The Concert and Symphonic Bands had a full year filled with a lot of fun and preparation for their many activities.

By Christina Kostelnik

Mr. Warren Miller listens as the saxophones play while sophomore Bridget Leeper waits for her cue. The Symphonic Bands had many concerts through out the year.

(Photo by William Bush)

Symphonic Band Woodwinds and Percussion - Front Row: Windy Caudill, Kirsten Mead. **Second Row:** Megan Kester, Stacey Durr, Teri Lesko, Michelle Brigham, Abbey Kay, Heather Johnston, Jenny Scegiel, Becky Hamstrom. **Third Row:** Mark Williams, Jon Hoover, Liz Cattani, Annette Munoz, Sarah Natalie, Laura Zielinski, Maegan Wendt, Donald Woodke. **Fourth Row:** Derek Hart, Shaun McCance, Sean Will, Melissa Lowe, Sara Dexter, Shellie Stout, Carrie Schnelle, Emmanouel Fokianos, Susan Corley, Stephanie Sandor. **Back Row:** Robert Syner, Christine Chapman, Kim Haskell, Rob Covington, Kenny Frailey, Paul Blanton, Carles Diaz.

Symphonic Band Brass Front Row: Travis Thatcher Curtis, Chris Westerkamp, Chris Beach, Jason Copeland, Gabriel Chaddock, Jeremy Kaiser, Karl Brown. **Second Row:** Shawn Arden, Cristina Timmons, Heidi Hedstrom, Tricia Muniz, Jennifer Watson, Jennifer Fox, Vonnie Loeffler, Debbie Lesko, Vanessa Stokes. **Back Row:** Joe Auskalnis, Kevin Elliott, Eric Serrano, Curtis Smith, Kevin Brown, Toby Provins, Petra DeJesus, Ryan Reber.

Students concentrate on the notes of their music during their Lab Band class. Many students took music electives to further their education in the music field.

Sophomores Stephanie Spenner and Abby Kay practice with their flutes for their future competitions. The concert bands had a variety of performances to prepare for.

(Photo by William Bush)

High/Low Brass-Front Row: Brian Zingo, Brandy McLean, Nathaniel Clough, Joe Auskalnis, Jenn Johnston, Mike Gurevitz. **Second Row:** Kevin Brown, Dan Garus, Mickey Joseph, Eric Serrano, Rebbeca Reibly, Melissa Smith, Scott Moehl. **Back Row:** David King, Robert Oakes, Shawn Arden, Stephen Renner, Mike Manske, John Raye.

(Photo by William Bush)

Saxes/Percussion-Front Row: Dakia Staples, Louis Stanko, Joe Holloway, Kevan Watson, Chris Koller, Ted Nadjer. **Back Row:** Nicole Startup, Leslie Coello, Joe Vrska, Aaron Finco, Tom Labus, Krista Scheller, Christina Stokes.

Concert Band Flutes, Clairinets & Oboes - Front Row: Holleah Hitchcock, Kristie Gilmore, Elizabeth Ireland, Leah Huddleston, Cheryl Blackburn, Stephanie Santos, Margaret Opolski, Kim Dudek, Jessica Holtzman, Jennifer Sandage. **Second Row:** Jennifer Kuzma, Tracie Timpe, Susan Grundand, Amanda Bartok, Rhonda Woodke, Robert Cox, Robyn Detterline, Erin Johnston, Shannon Meyer, George Sabo. **Back Row:** Mr. William Timmerman, Stephanie Smock, Cathy Zielinski, Steven Reibly, Sarah MacMillan, Michelle Kniola, Melissa Dolby, Lisa Washburn, Deanna Zych.

Students in symphonic orchestra practice during class. Most preparation for concerts and contests was done during the class hour.

The members of symphonic orchestra play their music. Many students enjoyed being a part of it because it was different than regular classes.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Concert Orchestra - Front Row: Susie Grunden, Lindsey Perryman, Deana Caudillo, Kelly Paviadakis, Amber Hammond, Ashley Hammond, Ashley DeHaven, Heather Broadway, Mandi Bartok. **Second Row:**Chuck Kuntz, Garret Clough, Leslie Coello, Tiffanie Habvrtak, Elizabeth Dillman, Amanda Flanagan, Sheri Johnson. **Third Row:** Matt Lasayko, Jeff Zeha, Tasha Ball, Jason Kallio, Mandy Stanton, Doug Blouir, Cheryl Flasch, Richard Piazza. **Back Row:** Michael Buckmaster, Derek Ferguson, Elizabeth Ireland, Chris Rogers, David Torres, Kenny Daily, Mr. Ray Grivetti.

Concert Orchestra - Front Row: Vincenta Chagoya, Laura Martinez, Martha DeVaney, Jenny Cambell, Christina Lawrence, Heather Jaques, Tabby Henderson, Wendy Hammond, Erica Blastick, JimSelvage, Kristy Gilbert. **Second Row:** Amanda Szentesy, Stacy Weimer, Amy Nelson, Kristin King, Amanda Pirowski, Umera Malik, Joe Rodarte, Maria Cantu, George Burchuck, Kris Komenda. **Back Row:** Mr.Ray Grivetti, Brian Overby, Paul Shinneman, Vicki Eshelman, Amanda Potts, Kristy Johnson, Michelle Blackburn, Emanuel Fokianos, Marissa Sauri, Jenny Prassas.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Performing strong

Concerts, ISSMA District contest and Solo and Ensemble were all part of Concert and Symphonic Orchestra. The members had to work hard to do well in all of these events. Concert and Symphonic Orchestra both had similar activities to prepare for, but the Symphonic Orchestra had harder music.

Both the Concert and Symphonic Orchestras practiced hard to achieve a first rating in the yearly ISSMA District contest.

There were some differences in Concert and Symphonic Orchestra. Senior Cindy Bickham said, "Symphonic Orchestra has winds all of the time,Concert doesn't. Symphonic is the top orchestra and it is harder to get in to."

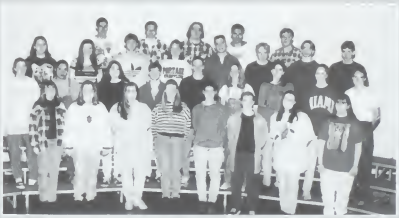
Many people enjoyed being a part of orchestra even though it was hard work. Sophomore Stephanie Iwan said, "It was fun."

Most orchestra members liked participating in an activity that was different than regular classes. Bickham said, "It's a break in the day to do something other than school work."

Concert and symphonic orchestras practiced mainly in school to get ready for the ISSMA District contest. Orchestra instructor Mr. Ray Grivetti said, "Our preparation for contest is during the school day in class."

The members of orchestra kept busy peforming and practicing their music through the year.

By Christina Kostelnik



Symphonic Orchestra - Front Row: Erin Johnston, Michelle Vogt, Kelly Creech, Dessa Lewandowski, Jessica Sandor, Christy Nystrom, Sarah Bradford, Robin Detterline. **Second Row:** Julie Ramian, Salina Viera, Cathy Marsh, Mark Williams, Rick Littlefield, Kathleen Siminski, Amy Washburn, Candace Crockett, Katherine Ostertag. **Third Row:**Kim DeBoe, Stephanie Iwan, Tom Mitchell, Elizabeth Slatton, Pete Hernandez, Jacob Wood, Scott Sworden, Jason Lach. **Back Row:** Phil Grigilanz, Gabriel Chaddock, Ron Holland, Kevin Wallskog, James Lucas.

Symphonic Orchestra - Front Row: Kathy Claudio, Cindy Bickham, Cindy Grunden, Tessie Frechette, Kelly Paviadakis, Tami Hasse, Melissa Spence, Elsie Espinosa. **Second Row:**Lang Hoang, Theresa Lavendusky, Becky Elliott, Cheryl Guzikowski, Heather Andryuk, Theresa Bickham, Cathy Campbell, Jackie Frechette, Lisa Levenson. **Third Row:**Kim Ford, Lori Parduhn, Tiffany Kirchner,Jenny Siminski, Shannon Liesch, Beth Sabin, Dana Rogers, Karin Zurcher. **Back Row:** Stephanie Santos, Jessica Lach, Jim Gilbert, Kathy Dick, Joe Holloway, Tracey Corey, Laura Owen, Kristin Zurcher, Heather Ciesielski, Michelle Harmon.

Lab Band I- Front Row: Nicole Chagoia, Rachel Wilson, Rachel Hood, Trisha Eastwood, Cathy Camery, Kelli Hale, Brandy Earl, Patti Dwarte, Rohelle Dayle. **Second Row:** Tim Rapauch, Jeremy Vallo, Jason Johns, Jennifer Serles, Sally Detterline, Bridget Leeper, Keri Baldridge, Craig Rutkowski, Dylon Hinton. **Back Row:** Devin Lilly, Adam Gaines, Nicole Honeycutt, Raquel Gonzalez, Rachel Jamenson, Chris Opolski, Kyle Smith, Carl Benjamin, Rodney Lawrence, Paul Robertson.

Lab Band II-Clarinets- Front Row: Jennifer Riffle, Jessica Barniville, Keely Mead, Jacinda Mardis, Leanne Campbell. **Second Row:** Jodie Hunt, Jenny Cap, Pamela Smith, Jennifer Sabovcik, Kristi Hesseltine. **Back Row:** Daysha Dusz, Cyndi Cochran, Brandi Heyse, Melissa Blanton, Mellisa Fritz.

Freshmen Rodney Lawrence and Paul Robertson look over their music as they prepare to play the drums. They were practicing for Festival, an annual event in which both Lab Bands participated.

Lab Band II-Woodwinds- First Row: Kari Snoder, Jennifer Wayte, Tiffany Surer, Dawn Butterfield, Amber Jacobson, Peggy Shelton. **Second Row:** Moises Otero, Shannon O'Connor, Jessica Wireman, Kristin Scribner, Lisa Butala, Jennifer Pisinski, Sarah Johnson. **Back Row:** Matt Lasayko, Jason Ray, Hays Francis, Adam Scholz, Chana Hart, Koryn Starr.

Lab Band II-Brass & Percussion- Front Row: Nick Katris, Michelle Vottero, Kris Komenda, Sebrina Leto, Lisa Corbett. **Second Row:** Amy Zaragoza, Elizabeth Bobb, Jennifer Christian, Amy Rivera, Amanda Hise. **Third Row:** Brandy McLean, Chris Elkins, Michael Buckmaster, Paul Shinneman, Joe Huddson. **Back Row:** Ron Boozer, Eric Stanley, Nick Rajski IV, Brian Zingo, Kevin Kosovich, Dan Fulkerson Jr.

Starting with music

A crowd of family and friends gather in the gym of sweltering heat to see the young musicians perform. The building seems to hyperventilate because of the number of spectators who have attended this event. Air is hard to ingest and even more difficult to exhale. Some members of the audience may wonder why they sacrifice so much for the Band Festival event. Many members believe that their love of music is what makes it worth their sacrifice.

According to freshman Cathy Camery, the Lab Band was a positive organization and more people should have participated. Camery said, "Lab Band was a really good group to get into and more people should have made the sacrifice to join."

There were many varied opinions about how the Lab Bands compare to other bands within the school. According to freshman Kyle Smith, Lab Band was used to become a proficient instrumentalist. Smith said, "Lab Band was basically the first part of a step-process."

Many participants agreed that they were not the worst band, but certainly not the best.

Camery said, "We were not the top band, but we worked as hard as them."

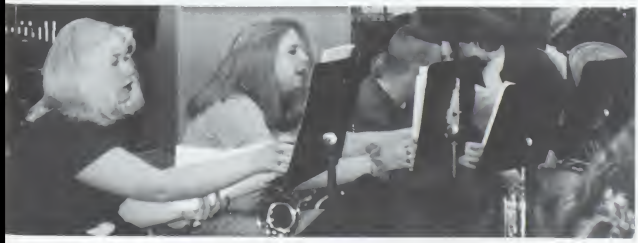
Along with the higher levels of achievement, such as Symphonic and Jazz Band, came an equal amount of sacrifice.

Freshman Pamela Smith said, "We had to work harder because we were at a lower level, so we had to work harder to be as good."

Some members of the Lab Bands felt that even though they were generally ranked lower than Symphonic Band, Concert Band or Orchestra, they had an excuse because of their amount of experience.

Freshman Kevin Kosovich said, "We were good, but we were mostly freshmen coming into the high school."

By Jason Sturgeon



Sophomore Bridget Leeper and freshman Nicole Honeycutt organize their music in preparation for rehearsal. Lab Band I met every morning during first hour to practice.

Knowledge masters

Memorizing 3,000 words, learning new material and being in tough competitions; it is not for the meek. Only those willing to work hard and study, study, study participate on the academic teams.

There are five Academic Teams available to participate in; Spell Bowl, Quiz Bowl, Super Bowl, Knowledge Masters Open and Decathlon. During each individual teams season they meet a few times a week and help each other learn the materials. Mrs. Jill Mangold got involved with academic teams when she was in high school and now has been the Academic Team Coordinator for four years. Previous to that she was the assistant since 1988.

"Initially as each team begins the work on the subject study guide material, the atmosphere is jovial and fun-filled. As competition time nears, their attitude and mine [as their coach] 'tightens' and we become more serious until eventually on competition day, it is extreme tension as we await the results of our practice and our studying," Mangold said. The sponsors provide free food and encouragement at the study meetings. They also award points that when added up could get the members awards or a letter. Junior Melissa Virden from the Spell Bowl Team said, "Mrs. Mangold is a really good coach, very supportive and encouraging."

Academic Teams are very competitive at their contests. Many such contests are held at school by the Duneland Academic Conference, which is what the teams belong to. "The D.A.C. is similar the athletic one," Mangold said. Often times as soon as the members finish with one competition they begin to study for another. Senior Dan Lomax said, "I am invovled in all the teams. I got invovled in the sixth grade when a teacher asked me to join the junior high Academic Teams."

Although the teams have done extraodinarily well this year, Mangold is still disappointed that of 2,600 students at school barely 25 compete. Mangold said, "The student body, administration, and community seem to be only vaguely aware of our existence."

Anyone who is willing to study and learn can become an Academic team member. "Members benefit from the information they learn while a member for the rest of their high school and college careers. It also benefits to you on a resume and scholarship as well as a high school letter," Mangold said.

By Kathy Rea

Decathalon- Front Row: Cheryl Guzikowski, David King, Shaun McCance, Mark Williams. **Back Row:** Mrs. Jill Mangold, Dan Garus, Dan Lomax, Don Woodke.

Superbowl- Front Row: Mark Williams, Jon Hoover, Jamie Webster, David King Jr., Lisa Fields, Cheryl Guzikowski, Brian Balta. **Second Row:** Mrs. Jill Mangold, Shaun Mc Carce, Danny Lomax, Daniel Garus, Tim Nush, Donald Woodke, Kristen Lee

At the Chesterton Quizbowl seniors Dan Lomax, Shaun McCance and Dan Garus compete for high scores. Lomax said, "Some competitions were very competitive while others were not." Team members prepare for weeks to compete in the Duneland Academic Conference competitions.

Hanging won of the many plaques won by the academic teams, Mrs. Dorothy Kurtz congratulates the members. This was Kurtz s last year with the teams because of her retirement. Kurtz worked as a sponsor for academic teams for five years.

Spell Bowl- Front Row: Kathi Martinez, Melissa Virden, Dan Lomax, Lisa Fields. **Second Row:** Mrs. Jill Mangold.

Knowledge Masters- Front Row: Mrs. Jill Mangold, Shaun McCarce, Mark Williams, Lisa Fields, Brian Balta. **Second Row:** Daniel Garus, Dan Lomax, Tim Nush, Donald Woodke, Kristen Lee.

Competing through a computer, Academic Team members work on their next question to Knowledge Masters. After they finish the competition Mrs. Jill Mangold phones in their results, they received seventh in state.

Competition Connection

Going for the penalty kick against her opponents, senior Julie Plunkett uses her strength to kick the ball that helped win the game. The girls' soccer team ended the season 10-7-3.

IT'S *all* Connected

When concentration counts, junior Dana Rogers focuses on completeting the perfect back dive. Rogers helped the Indians finish with a 12-3 season record.

Working on his backhand during practice for regionals, junior Joe Gabey successfully returns the ball over the net. The Boys' Tennis team ended the season 16-2.

Kicking for a field goal, senior Tom Bonez, attempts to score a point for the Indians. The Indians won that game 39-7.

Coach Craig Buzea gives the team instructions from the sidelines. Buzea coach the team to an 11-1 record at the end of his second year.

Varsity Football - Front Row: Mark Royce, Brian Warchus, Abe Pomales, Jose Torres, Blake Wiseman, Scott Curran, Aaron Branham, William Bush, Tom Johnson, Hayes Francis, Adam Vasquez. **Second Row:** Joe James, Ryan McGuffey, Tony Blystone, Matt Crizer, Joe Hall, Jamie McDowell, Phil Frechette, Charlie Greer, Jeff Knapp, Kris Replin. **Third Row:** Josh Shear, Ryan Korbar, Kevin Hilley, Ryan Burton, Tom Bonez, Jeff Fuerst, Jeff Camp, Art Wright, Johnny Lewis, Eric Reynolds. **Fourth Row:** Steve Scheier, Casey Hauswirth, Bob Mc Kinney, Marty Costello, Bob Richards, Brian McWilliams, Matt Yoder, Jeremy, DeHaven, Dan Gesmond, Tim Lewandowski, Duane Corll. **Fifth Row:** Tony Sobczak, Tony Ballor, Carl Buergler, Jason Marcotte, Ryan Gabey, Chris Spurrier, Nick Wellman, Joe Christian, Josh Coppinger, Joe Tinnel, Todd Griffey. **Sixth Row:** Bob Witt, Brian Freeman, Will Conners, Josh Davis, Dave Torres, Pete Shaw, Kevin DeVries, Jeremy Putman, Carlos Ernandez, Scott Misner, Doug Samuel, Tony Castillo. **Seventh Row:** Pete Hernandez, John Bailey, Jed Mayes, Jeremy Lewis, Ryan Bonner, Ian Pittman, John Lopez, Eric Christy, Tom Orange, Ricky Newman. **Eighth Row:** Adam Scott, Matt Anderson, Ryan Lang, Rob Lemon. **Back Row:** Trainer Marnee Flynn, Coach Tom Lewandowski, Coach Terry Milner, Coach Ken Elwood, Coach Dave Mattix, Coach Craig Buzea, Coach Pete Turpa, Coach Jeff Smith, Trainer Dan Merrill.

finishing up some Business

The Varsity football team did what some teams can only dream of. They had a perfect regular season, along with Sectional and Regional titles. With a 13-1 season last year, these guys came back to work on some "Unfinished Business."

What looked like another trip to the Dome was cut short by a delayed game against Penn. The following day the Indians lost their first game of the season, cutting their dreams short, but not their individual goals.

"My goals are to help the team out and maybe get a few catches," junior Phil Frechette said.

Although the have had a great season it has not gone to their heads. "I give credit to the whole team, one person doesn't lead the team, it's unity," junior Jeremy Lewis said.

"They work hard and work together, that's what makes them so successful," said football fan, sophomore Genanne Voynovitch. "Even as a team they believe in themselves and each other not only as a teammates, but as friends."

In fact, sophomore Matt Crizer could not even name an MVP. "I couldn't name just one because there are a lot of people on the team who deserve to be called MVP."

Although Crizer could not name an MVP, fellow teammates could. "Spurrier. He's so bad, he's a beast. He gets the job done," said senior Jeremy Putman of the 6'1", 250-pound Indian linebacker.

"But we still haven't lost a game on a Friday night. Man, I have to stop all these Saturday games," said Coach Craig Buzea at the fall sports ceremony. Both of the games that the Indians have lost in the past two years have been on Saturdays.

For many footall fans, the season was exciting not only to watch, but to follow.

Freshman Chana Hart said, "I like football, and even though they didn't make it to State, they had a great season."

By Missy Bedroya

varsity Football

Home		Opp
14	Lake Central	9
31	LaPorte	22
27	Merrillville	21
28	Crown Point	10
27	Michigan City	6
35	Hobart	18
42	Valparaiso	14
39	Chesterton	7
	Sectionals	
21	Lake Central	7
35	Lew Wallace	6
20	Crown Point	17
	Regionals	
8	Penn	21

Hundreds of PHS football fans crowded the stands to show their support and spirit. Students and other fans paid $2.00 to ride the fan bus to away games.

Junior Jose Torres pushes for the extra yardage while being tugged on by Michigan City Wolves. The Michigan City Wolves were a first year team composed of the Michigan City Rogers and Michigan City Elston teams.

stepping into the Spotlight

junior varsity Football

Home		Opp.
34	Lake Central	0
33	LaPorte	0
14	Merrillville	0
14	Crown Point	7
41	Michigan City	0
27	Hobart	13
20	Valparaiso	0
26	Chesterton	7

freshman Football

Home		Opp.
28	Lake Central	12
14	LaPorte	6
8	Merrillville	27
24	Crown Point	0
6	Michigan City	0
8	Hobart	0
8	Valparaiso	18

Everyday after school the JV football team faced a grueling practice lasting near three hours. They were smashed into, ran over and then helped up by the hands of the Varsity players they admired.

The job of a JV player was not only to showcase the Portage program on Monday nights, but to prepare the Varsity to face their opponents. "We have defensive scouting meetings and a special segment during practice to learn the oppositions plays. It usually takes us about two days to learn their plays. It doesn't interfere with our own stuff because our defense is pretty much the same with a few minor changes and the offense is just base plays," junior Matt Crizer said.

Head JV Coach Terry Milner and Head Freshman Coach Jay Hodges agreed that the main purpose of both JV and Freshman football is to prepare the younger kids to play on the Varsity. "Sometimes we feel overshadowed by the Varsity because they get more attention on Friday nights. It seems like the whole town comes out to see the game on Friday nights, but on Monday our parents and a few friends make up a crowd of about 50 people," Crizer said.

The JV and Freshman team proved that they could shine along with the Varsity equally as both the Varsity and JV took the DAC by storm with two undefeated seasons. The Freshman had a near perfect season losing only to tough contenders Merrillville and Valparaiso. "The key to our success and undeafeated season was hard work. Plus, our coaches are great. Mr. Milner is my favorite because he really gets you prepared for the game. He scouts the other teams well," junior Josh Davis said.

A highlight of the JV season took place at the Varsity game vs. Valparaiso, Portage's Homecoming. For the first time, a 'prep' JV player, senior Marty Costello, was voted by the entire football team, Mr. Football. Mr. Football is an award usually given to a starter on the Varsity. "Marty went out to the practice field everyday and got his butt kicked on 'prep teams.' He has a good attitude and is always in there. He deserved it!" Davis said.

Crizer said, "Marty is like the 'Rudy' of the team. Once he got hit so hard at practice he ran to the sideline and threw up, then he ran right back to the huddle."

Marty's being named Mr. Football along with the JV finally having a head coach were major steps up for the JV. Maybe their undefeated season was the missing link that will lead to giving them the spotlight they deserve.

by Jennifer Buergler

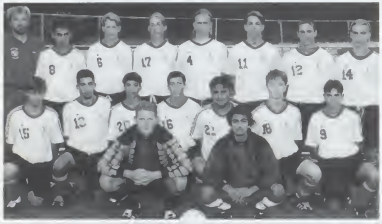
Junior Matt Anderson begins to cheer for his teammate Eric Reynolds as he scores a touchdown against the Michigan City Wolves. The Indians were victorious over the Wolves, 41-0.

Freshman Ken Daily is brought down by two Michigan players. The freshman team defeated the Wolves, 6-0.

Freshman Football - Front Row: Steve Charnetzky, David Torres, Jeremy Leonard, Jeff During, James O'Keefe, Josh Swindle, Andrew Bradbury. **Second Row:** Tom Quinn, Rick Carrion, Kevin Goad, Kevin Mc Guffey, Joe Golarz, Tom Modesto, Nick Wayne, Steve Rummell, Matt Lemus. **Third Row:** Ryan Dexter, Chad Bradford, Eric Lee, Paul Torchia, Dusk Sheaks, Keith Kerr, Derek Fadely, Tom Whiteside. **Fourth Row:** Chad Shewmaker, Ken Daily, Paul Baum, David Fancher, Chris Hodges, Rick Rodriguez, Joe Klimczyk, Chad Molina, Robert Martinie. **Fifth Row:** Chris LaFoy, Andy Reed, Marc Samardzija, Chris Smolnicky, Derek Weidenaar, Aaron Siebal, Jeff Evans, Chris Pauley. **Back Row:** Coach Phil Wright, Head Coach Jay Hodges, Tom Bialata, Kevin Keefover, Devlin Howe, Aaron West, Audie Bailey, Mike Bigham, Coach Larry Tharp.

Going for his penalty kick, sophomore John Michael Hutchins sways his foot in the strategic way to get an extra point. John helped his team win, 6-0. The boys' team season record was 9-8-2.

Junior Varsity Boy's Soccer - Front Row: Brian Slatton, Pat Wilkins, Marcus Gilbert, Marshal Newbold, Aragon Mendez, John Colburn. **Second Row:** Michael Benson, Dan Tomes, Alex Torres, John Michael Hutchins, Tim Lucas, Mike Liesch, Brandon Mowbray. **Back Row:** Coach John Vuko, Tony Cimbalevich, Pat McGlothlen, Nick Ladra, Tobi Provens, Jacob Woods, Brad Lancaster, Jeremy Melton.



Varsity Boy's Soccer - Front Row: Matt Fisher, Alfredo Rodriguez. **Second Row:** David Tomes, Dan Walworth, Mike Odisho, Chris Ward, Marco Covarrubius, Adam Wynorasky, Ed Reckenwall. **Back Row:** Coach Jim Green, Pat Sanchez, Jeremy O'Neal, Tim O'Neal, Bob Billick, Jeremy Barker, Dennis Odisho, Todd Strom.

During the match against Valparaiso, senior Jeremy Barker blocks the ball with his feet to dribble it to the goal. The team lost, 6-0.

kicking to Connect

When on the field, most boys on the soccer team wanted to connect so they could be the best that they could be. A connection must have been made because the team ended up with an overall 9-8-2 season record.

"Soccer is one of the best sports in the world and it just means a lot to me," said sophomore Brandon Mowbray. "It's cool that I can be part of it!"

Junior Dennis Odisho said, "Winning a game in soccer is one of the greatest moments in life, but to win you have to be friends on the field. In the beginning, everyone argued. Towards the end, we all started getting along."

Some of the soccer players said that Coach Jim Green was a big influence and that he helped everyone greatly.

"The coach was just a great motivator. We've been with him since the start and he's always been there to help us with our game," senior Freddie Rodriguez said.

"Coach tried to motivate us when we were down and it helped us greatly to win most of our games," senior Tim O'Neal said.

One player said that unity was the key to winning soccer.

"Everybody has to play together as a team! To win, you gotta play with unity," said O'Neil.

By Joe Durk

During warm-ups, sophomore Nick Ladra gets advice from his coach, John Vuko. Many players agreed that the coaches help greatly improved the team's attitude and ability to win games.

With a look of determination on his face, junior Dennis Odisho heads the ball into the goalie box. Portage won, 8-0. The season record for the team was 9-8-2.

boys' Soccer

Home		OPP
5	Crown Point	2
1	Lake Central	2
8	Hammond High	0
2	Hobart	3
6	Lowell	0
8	Michigan City	0
6	LaPorte	0
2	Munster	5
1	Griffith	0
1	Chesterton	1
2	Andrean	2
0	Valparaiso	1
2	Highland	2
8	Merrilville	0
	Riley Invite	
0	Argos	1
2	Riley	3
	Sectionals	
5	Michigan City	0
2	Chesterton	1
1	Valparaiso	4

9-8-2

second time around

Even better

After what seemed an average season for the girls' soccer team last year, they proved they still can do anything by going out and winning the sectional title as well as the DAC championship.

"It was great this year because everyone pretty much knew everyone but we still argued in the beginning. We did awesome, especially for winning sectionals," said junior Becky Elliot. "I think we did better than our first year."

Sophomore Katy Ballas said, "At the start of the season, we had our differences. They got worked out during the mid-season and by the end, we were all pretty chummy-chummy. It worked out OK."

Senior Erika Murrow said, "Towards the end of the season, all of us began to get along very well. That was a major factor in coming together and winning sectionals."

"I think we did awesome. Teamship was a major factor in the success of the season and we worked as a team most of the time," said senior Alicia Smith.

Two players agreed that the coaches were a tremondous help in the 10-7-3 season.

Junior Stacy Durr said, "The coaches were so helpful that our knowledge of soccer was greater when they gave us their advice. We just clicked with them."

"We had three really good coaches who know a lot about soccer. It was nice because you could talk to them on a freindly level, but when it was time to work, we all respected their expertice," Murrow said.

Some awards that were given to various players were the MVP, which went to sophomore Stacy Porter, along with the Mental Attitude awards that were given to freshman Angela Muray and senior Julie Plunkett.

Durr ended, "The season was really good, despite the setbacks of the fighting in the beginning.

By Joe Durk

girls' Soccer

Home		Opp
1	Crown Point	1
0	Munster	1
0	Hobart	0
2	Highland	0
9	Michigan City	0
1	Lake Central	5
10	LaPorte	2
2	Andrean	0
0	South Bend Adams	4
0	Homestead	2
0	Chesterton	2
0	St. Joe's	1
3	Valparaiso	2
4	Bishop Noll	2
0	Merrillville	0
2	Griffith	1
	Sectionals	
3	Andrean	1
3	Hobart	2
2	Valparaiso	1
	Regionals	
0	Concord	2

10-7-3

During warm-ups in preparation against their Highland opponents, freshman Melissa Smith and sophomore Katy Ballas block the ball for the varsity game. The team had a score of 2-0 and won the game

Varsity Girls' Soccer - Front Row: Angela Murray, Jenny Lehocky, Melissa Smith, Katy Ballas, Martha DeVaney, Becky Easton. **Second Row**: Jessica Mundell, Alicia Smith, Stacy Porter, Melissa Mongoven, Kim Ogden, Ryen Dohner. **Back Row**: Coach Shelly Kwiatkowski, Abby Marcinkovich, Julie Plunkett, Kelly Bonner, Erika Murrow, Joy Krejci, Kari Glans, Coach Jeanne Miotke.

Junior Varsity Girls' Soccer - Front Row: Natalie Metz, Julie Racich, Katy Ballas, Melissa Smith, Kathy Rea, Jenny Lehocky. **Second Row**: Kristen Lee, Heather Lucas, Stacy Durr, Melissa Parker, Angela George, Shannon Liesch, Becky Elliot. **Back Row**: Coach Shelly Kwiatkowski, Amy Matthew, Beth Sabin, Jessica Sandor, Jennifer Cloyd, Kellie Glans, Jenny Vanderploeg, Coach Jeanne Miotke.

After an out-of-bounds kick by the other team, freshman Jessica Sandor hurls the ball in at Trumble Field at Willowcreek Middle School. Portage won the match over LaPorte by a margin of 10-2.

Going against a Chesterton defense player, senior Erika Murrow attempts to keep the ball from going out. The girls lost the match 2-0, which gave them a season record of 10-7-3.

Dribbling the ball down the field, junior Becky Easton goes up against two Chesterton players. Chesterton won the match against the Indians, 2-0.

After two miles of warming up, a two and a half mile race, and a two mile cool down, sophomore Tessie Frechette nurses an injury while discussing the days race with senior Jenene Stafford. Frechette came in first place with a time of 14:46 against Valparaiso and Hobart, while Stafford finished in 36 with 17:14.

Helping worn out freshman Heather Kilgore, catch her breath, sophomore Natalie Fornari and freshman Beth Munoz congratulate Kilgore on finishing the two and a half mile race at Woodland Park against Valparaiso High School and Hobart High School team members in a time of 20:48 placing 52.

getting on the Truck

Hours of practice, three to six miles of running a day, eating right, and a ton of determination and sweat paved the road to state for the girls cross country team.

"Our goal is to get to the state meet and to place in the top five. We call it 'getting on the truck'," Coach Jay White said. The girls cross country runners had begun training before season started. Many ran in track and others ran on their own. During the season they trained everyday after school, running at various places such as Ogden Dunes, the State Park, and Bailey Homestead.

White said, "Cross country training is like putting money in a savings account. The more money you put in, the more interest you earn. In running, the more miles you put in during practice, when you get to a meet you'll be able to draw interest, which helps you in the race." The runners had a lot of interest to use at the state competition.

All the training and positive attitudes had created a team with a great amount of spirit that continues to win. "We have a great sport and team. We just want to improve, get some more runners to join us, and continue a program that Portage High School can be very proud of," Coach White said.

The lack of runners was not the only problem the cross country team had. Very few fans showed up to cheer the runners on. Tessie Frechette, a sophomore, whose been running since sixth grade and is now a front runner, said, "I would like more fans to come to meets, but our meets are so far away."

The team came in 7th at semi-state. The girls minds set already set 'to get back on the truck' next year to take State.

By Kathy Rea

Racing toward the finish line, sophomore Marcy Greer finishes 49th at one of the many home meets held at Woodland Park.

girls' Cross Country

Home		Opp.
16	Merrillville	46
25	Crown Point	30
15	LaPorte	50
15	New Prairie	50
25	Valparaiso	31
19	Hobart	40

Penn Hokum Karem
2nd
Carmel Classic
2nd
Rebel Invite
3rd
New Prairie Invite
3rd
Culver Invite
3rd
Manchester Invite
3rd
Duneland Conference Meet
3rd

Sectional
2nd

Regional
4th

Semi-State
7th

On your marks, get set, go! The girls' Cross Country team takes off against Valparaiso and Hobart hoping for a first. Portage won with 25 points against Valparaiso's 31 and 19 points against Hobart's 40.

Girls' Cross Country-Front Row: Amanda Lewowski, Heather Kilgore, Jeanine Ibiahim, Candice Weinman, Stephanie Williams, Jackie Frechette, Beth Munoz, Nikkie Warwick. **Second Row:** Candace Crockett, Dollie Boyle, Amanda Palmateer, Kati Wampler, Yvette Menendez, Marcy Greer, Tessie Frechette. **Back Row:** Angie Zolkowski, Jenene Stafford, Natalie Fornari, Cristina Chandler, Kim Cipich, Jill Kozrowski, Coach Jay White.

running for the Gold

boy's' Cross Country

Home		Opp.
15	Lake Central	48
15	Merrillville	50
16	Crown Point	47
15	LaPorte	49
15	New Prairie	48
15	Chesterton	48
15	Michigan City	47
17	Valparaiso	43
15	Hobart	50

Penn Hokem Karem
1st
Rebel Invitational
2nd
Carmal Classic
1st
New Prairie Invite
1st
Culver Military
1st
Manchester Invite
1st
Duneland Athletic Meet
1st

Sectionals
1st

Regionals
1st

Semi State
1st

State
2nd

With an undefeated season, a DAC championship, and Sectional, Regional and Semi-State titles, these guys worked hard to get into shape and earn second place at state.

In fact the boys'cross country team had seven guys run more than 500 miles during the summer. But they did not stop there, every morning during first hour when most of us were still halfway asleep, these guys were in the cross country class putting in a few extra miles.

On an average they ran six miles a day for practice. All of their hard work paid off, the team was ranked No. 1 in Indiana. The team had set their minds on taking the State title. "Our team goals for this season are to make it to the State Meet and run to the best of our ability when we get here," junior Chris Westerkamp said.

The Duneland Athletic Conference marked 25 years of the DAC meets. Of those 25, Portage has won the first place title 18 times. This year was no exception. "We scored an unprecedented 15 points in our DAC Championship. No team has ever done this," said Boy's cross country Coach Bill Wilke.

Even though the team did not win the State title, they know that they tried their best. "We were a little disappointed, but we tried to the best of our ability." said senior Ruben Perez.

Coach Wilke was not ashamed of their 2nd place. "I am very proud of our team. They were a great team to coach and just be around. The result of the State meet can not diminish how well we ran through the season."

If you wanted to know who gets all the credit for the success of the team ask junior Tom Taylor. "Coach Wilke is the epitome of Portage cross country. He established a tradition here that we defend with pride and determination. He is the one we follow."

By Missy Bedroya

Walking away from Valpariso University, seniors Nick Morris, Ken Timm and Aaron Galindo leave with a first place. The Boys Cross Country team finished with a 9-0 season record.

Giving his best at Sectionals, Senior Nick Munoz runs for the finish line. The team was ranked first in Indiana and 19th in the country. The team got achieved a first in Sectionals, giving them a 9-0 overall season record.

After receiving congratulations from friends and family, senior Aaron Galindo stops to pose for a picture while rests up from his race. Galindo ran for Portage at the Sectional meet and helped them receive first place.

Running for the finish line junior Tom Taylor defends the fighting Portage Indians name. Taylor placed eighth in his event.

Boy's Cross Country-Front Row: Rob McKay, Ruben Perez, James Braseur, Nick Munoz, Nick Morris, Ken Timm, Mike Foley, Aaron Galindo, Sean Hannon. **Back Row:** Coach John Kappas, Jeff Fain, Tim Mulvihill, Justin Sawochka, Brian Bough, Tom Taylor, Mike Griffith, Scott McDonald, Chris Westerkamp, Jacob Urban, Jeff Zeha, Tim Galati, Dave Alonzo, Coach Bill Wilke.

The PHS volleyball team gets ready to play. The team ended the year with a season record of 15-14.

varsity Volleyball

Home		Opp.
2	Bishop Noll	0
2	Hammond Morton	0
2	Marquette	0
0	Washington Township	2
2	Wheeler	1
0	South Central	2
0	LaPorte	2
0	Munster	2
2	South Bend Adams	0
2	North Newton	0
2	Hammond Clark	0
1	Lake Central	2
2	Andrean	1
0	Merrillville	2
1	Highland	2
0	Lowell	2
1	Crown Point	2
0	Kankakee Valley	2
2	Lake Station	0
2	Chesterton	0
2	Plymouth	0
2	Saint Joseph	1
0	Michigan City	2
0	Valparaiso	2
2	Gary Westside	0
1	Hobart	2
2	Hammond Gavit	0
2	Wheeler	1
1	Chesterton	2

In midserve, sophomore Sarah Johnson attempts to score a point. This was Johnson's first year on the Varsity team.

Reaching for the ball, senior Angela McWhirter returns the ball to the other team. The team played their way all the way to Sectionals.

Varsity Volleyball- Front Row: Shana Pollock, Angela McWhirter. **Second Row:** Michelle Lilly, Amanda Chichowlaz, Christy Ramian. **Third Row:** Mary Mazurek, Sarah Johnson. **Back Row:** Christy Lovings, Cyndi Hatala, Missy Fekete, Heather Campbell, Head Coach Cheryl Girman.

setting bigger Dreams

For the second year in a row, the Varsity volleyball team has claimed the Sectional title.

Putting in about 36 hours a week for practice, prepares them for their competition. And working together helps them to defeat the competition.

"If they didn't work together, as a team, they couldn't accomplish as much, because there would be no unity. It would be each player for herself, and a team can't work that way," said volleyball fan, sophomore Theresa Bickham.

First time Varsity player, sophomore Sarah Johnson, felt that making the team was one of her biggest accomplishments ever. "I got to meet more people and be with a great group of girls. I know that I have to work hard though. Nothing comes easy anymore."

Just like most teams, these girls had dreams and goals for the season. "I want to play all around and get as much playing time as possible, and just do our best," junior Heather Campbell said.

Coach Cheryl Girman also had a lot to say about the Varsity team. "This years team is a wonderful group talented young ladies. I thoroughly enjoyed this team."

This year's season might be over, but the team and many of their fans are already looking forward to the next season and.

"I love to watch volleyball and we have a great team. I was very excited when they won Sectionals because they worked their hardest and they deserve it," Bickham said.

Many teammates have already set their goals for next year and are getting ready for the year to come.

By Missy Bedroya

During the home match against Kankakee Valley, freshman Kristin King spikes the ball over the net to win the game for the Indians.

Freshman Becky Hall prepares to spike as teammate Gretchen Circle looks on while playing against Chesterton.

Freshman Volleyball-First Row: Gretchen Circle, Patty Sulitz, Jessica McKee. **Second Row:** Diandra Irvin, Ryan Sweeney, Jamee Connaway, Melissa Roach, Tracy McNeiley, Steve Smith, Fahad Javed, Lee Ann Spurlock, Tara Potts, Jenny Fekete. **Back Row:** Becky Hall, Coach Clara Lilly, Katie Kawiecki, Nicole Persin, Coach

Junior Varsity Volleyball-Front Row: Jamie Kornacki, Shawna Carter. **Second Row:** Kelli Ramain, Julien Petzel, Wendy Cannon. **Third Row:** Sarah Hopp, Sarah Uzelic. **Back Row:** Elain Getting, Beth Zolkowski, Kristen King, Coach Sarah Bradick.

setting for the Ace

Sweat rolls down her face. She throws it in the air and serves ... ACE! The junior varsity and freshman volleyball teams served up what some players considered a great season.

During the season, the players felt they had made many improvements. Freshman Gretchen Circle said "I improved on setting and serving. I actually improved on everything."

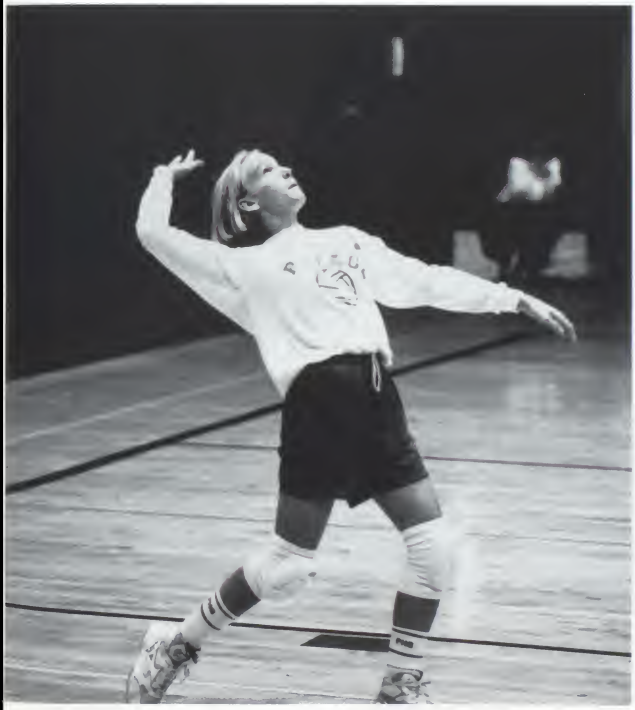
Team members always had a significant reason for enjoying the team atmosphere. Freshman Jenny Fekete said, "I liked the gatherings, every Friday night we would spend the night at someone's house. We bonded really well."

Most players thought the team's main goal for the season was to work together and also to concentrate on the game. "The team's goal was to not get down on ourselves and to keep our attitudes up," Fekete said.

There were always some favorite memories that most remembered. "I think a favorite memory that I will always remember is when we tepeed our coaches house, we got it really bad," Fekete said.

"I think our hard work payed off this season but we could have put more hard work in our games," freshman Kelly Buhman said.

By Joe Durk
Kristie Gilmore



During the game against Hobart, freshman Gretchin Circle serves the ball over the net for the extra point that gave the team the 2-0 win against its opponents.

freshman Volleyball

Home		Opp.
1	Lowell	2
0	LaPorte	2
0	Bishop Noll	2
0	Andrean	2
0	Michigan City	2
0	Kankakee Valley	2
1	Merrillville	2
0	Lake Central	2
0	Wheeler	2
0	Munster	2
2	Marquette	0
0	Chesterton	2
1	Merrillville	2
1	Griffith	2
0	Valparaiso	2
0	Merrillville	2
0	LaPorte	2
0	Munster	2
0	Chesterton	2
2	Hobart	0
0	Crown Point	2

junior varsity Volleyball

Home		Opp.
1	Bishop Noll	2
2	Hammond Morton	0
2	Marquette	1
2	Washington Township	
2	Wheeler	1
2	South Central	1
0	LaPorte	2
2	Lake Central	0
2	Andrean	1
2	Merrillville	0
2	Highland	0
2	Lowell	0
2	Crown Point	2
1	Bishop Noll	2
1	Michigan City	1
2	Lafayette	1
2	Lowell	0
0	Kankakee Valley	2
1	Lake Station	2
2	Chesterton	2
0	Michigan City	2
0	Valparaiso	2
2	Gary Westside	0
0	Hobart	2
0	Crown Point	2
0	Hobart	2
0	Valparaiso	2
1	Hammond Gavit	2

raising the Racket

junior varsity Tennis

Home		Opponent
2	Noll	0
3	Laf. Jefferson	2
5	Highland	0
2	W. Lafayette	3
3	Andrean	1
0	Valparaiso	5
4	LaPorte	0
3	Michigan City	1
4	Crown Point	1
5	Griffith	0
2	Merrillville	3
3	Chesterton	2
3	St. Joe	2
2	Hobart	0

varsity Tennis

Home		Opponent
5	Bishop Noll	0
5	Highland	0
0	W. Lafayette	5
5	Laf. Jefferson	0
4	Andrean	1
3	Valparaiso	2
5	LaPorte	0
5	Michigan City	0
5	Hobart	0
5	Crown Point	0
3	Merrilliville	2
5	Chesterton	0
3	St. Joe	2
	Sectionals	
5	North Judson	0
3	Valparaiso	2
	Regionals	
5	Lake Station	0
4	Merrillville	1
	Semi-State	
0	Culver Military	5

Sweat rolls down his face as he propells the ball skyward. With his racket poised to strike, he throws his weight into the serve. The ball lands swiftly into the opponents service area for the ace.

The Portage boys' tennis team ended up suprising itself and others after losing six varsity players the previous season. In the beginning of the tennis season, the team was ranked fifth in the Duneland conference.

Sophomore Steve Kaminski said, "I think we have a good team. We're stronger than last year. We weren't supposed to be good!"

The Portage team finished with a record of 16-2. Portage head tennis Coach Richard Mason said, "They worked hard during the summertime and came out of nowhere!"

They reached the semistate level, but were slapped down by 18th ranked Culver with a score of 0-5.

The tennis team felt that it was seriously underestimated by fellow students and even the community. Team members reported feeling a strange form of motivation from being overlooked by those who were supposed to support them.

"We showed the people up who put us down," freshman George Murrow said.

By Jason Sturgeon

Playing varsity since his freshman year, junior Joe Gabey returns the ball during practice. Practice was a major element in the success of the tennis team.

Returning a serve, senior Jason Manna practices before taking on Merriville at the regional level. Manna, playing No. 3 singles against Jeremy McClaim, won his match 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-3. The varsity team's season record was 16-2.

Ripping a backhand down the line, senior Eric Mason passes his Merrillville opponent. He and his partner, senior Jeff King, lost the match, 6-1,4-6,5-7, but received All-State Honors as a double team.

Varsity Boys' Tennis - Front Row: Joe Gabey, Jeff King, Eric Mason. Second Row: Steve Kaminski, Dan Kaminski, George Murrow, Staffan Dahlberg, Jason Manna, Brian Twilla, Ryan Mason, Derek Demmon.

Many wrestlers contributed to the wrestling teams success. Senior Ian Pittman wrestles during the DAC meet. He won his match.

varsity Wrestling

Home	Duals	Opp
65	Michigan City	9
40	Merriville	30
57	Laporte	10
37	Valparasio	31
44	Hobart	30
42	Crown Point	22

Invites

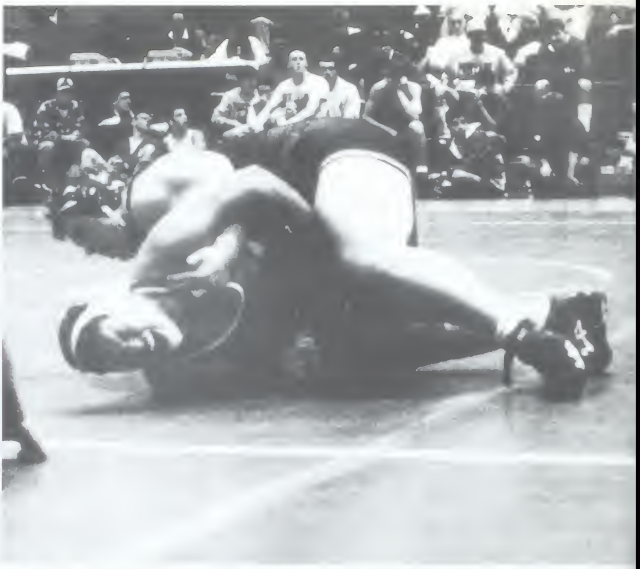
1st	Lake Central
3rd	Calumet
1st	Kokomo
1st	Lake Station
2nd	Culver

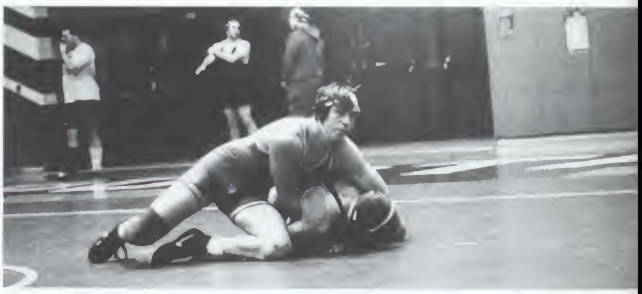
DAC
1st
Sectional
1st
Regional
1st
Semi-State
1st
State
State Medalist
Leroy Vega

junior varsity Wrestling

Invites

1st	PHS JV
NA	Lowell
1st	Goshen
5th	SB Clay





Senior Jed Mayes wrestles in the tripal dual vs Valparaiso and Chesterton, which was held at PHS. Despite the work, Jed lost his match.

connecting skill with
Power

It was the beginning of a tradition. The wrestling team became the team to beat after traveling to the state meet annually and returning with trophies and metals galore. After achieving a second place finish at last years meet, the Indians were geared for success as they started the season.

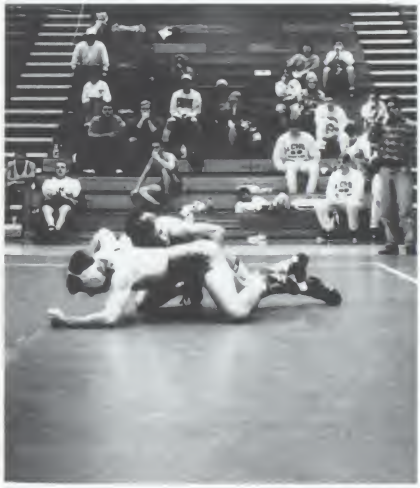
Many of the wrestlers competed in various other sports, but wrestling has never taken a back seat. Many of the wrestlers play football, baseball or run track. For senior Chris Spurrier, wrestling begins the moment football ends. "I play football and I throw the shot in track. The difference between these sports and wrestling is that we condition a lot more for wrestling," Spurrier said.

As soon as the doors opened you could see wrestlers running the halls dressed in warm, outdoor clothing. The weight room was always hopin' and you could hear the buzz of the stationary bikes in the fitness room until late hours after school. Many wrestlers needed to lose a small amount of weight while others needed to lose a great deal in order to wrestle their preferred weight classes. Wrestling not only requires its participants to maintain their weight, but to also remain conditioned. "In wrestling you use your whole body all the time. Our conditioning basically consists of a lot of running and wrestling. We work on technique as well," Spurrier said.

With all of the conditioning it may have been hard to understand where the wrestlers received their motivation. The answer most often given was 'the coaches.' Head Coach Mr. Larry Tharp has coached the Indian wrestlers for four years . His coaching style has been described by athletes and spectators as laid-back at times, but his emotion and feeling for the sport of wrestling and for his wrestlers always prevailed. Spurrier said, "Both Tharp and Pendowski are very hyper and high strung, they help and encourage us just by being so intense."

Their performances at the meets, along with the dedication that was put into their practice enabled the wrestling team to shine at the state meets. Both Spurrier and junior Leroy Vega earned places individually at the meet. Spurrier earned fourth place honors and Leroy Vega took the cake, placing first in his weight class.

By Jennifer Buergler



Junior Zach Murray wrestled in a triple dual, during season. Tripal duals feature three teams that are actually competing for the highest score, in two meets at a time.

Front Row: Elizabeth Slatton, Lisa Minor, Mindy Gilbert, Elizabeth Munoz, Irene DeJesus, Shawna Carter. **Row 2:** James O'Keefe, Kris Scherff, Izzy DeJesus, Stephan Stanfel, Stephan Kinlaw, Steve Cook, Leroy Vega, Chris Roman, Pat Wilkins. **Row 3:** Joe Capoddagli, Josh Swindle, Eric Erway, Jake Warner, Jose Torres, Dave Chavez, Adam Alaniz, Andrew Bradbury. **Back Row:** Coach Tharp, Dan Murray, Tony Voterro, Paul Robertson, Chris Spurrier, Ryan Lang, Ian Pittman, Matt Atherton, David Torres, Coach Medina, Coach Pendowski.

Junior Jaclyn Repay competes on the uneven bars. Bars was one of the many events in which Repay competed.

Freshman Monica Vega practices her beam routine before a meet. Vega attempted a camel jump nearing the end of her routine.

practicing Perfection

A gymnast does a small jump into a flip, with hand held high, the crowd witnesses the exhale of her final moment on the floor.

The floor exercise gave students a chance to express themselves as individuals and to use moves that were flattering to each gymnasts performance.

Junior Nikki Floyd who placed sixth on vault at the State competition said, "I was a little disappointed in the outcome of the State meet but I was proud to even medal at state."

The gymnastics team was ranked second throughout the regular season and finish up by taking second at the Duneland Athletic Conference, at Sectionals and at Regionals.

Senior Gia Fornari said, "This season was, by far, my best season. The whole team was really close."

Each girl had friends among the team to keep them motivated for competition.

Floyd said, "A lot of girls kept themselves motivated but there were girls on the team that motivated all of us."

Although the team did well and was proud of its accomplishments, members didn't let it go to their heads.

Fornari said, "Even though we did well and ended up second at Regionals, it didn't really matter because we had fun."

By Derinda Smith

Senior Nikki Gass warms up with Assistant Coach Rob Surber. At numerous meets Gass placed as one of the top individuals.

junior varsity Gymnastics

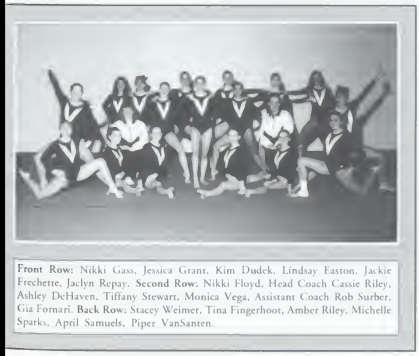
Home		Opponent
85.05	LaPorte	72.6
89.95	Hobart	72.35
85.75	Michigan City	33.6
90.6	Crown Point	56.45
95.4	Merrillville	forfeit
95.1	Lowell	forfeit
96.55	Valparaiso	93.8
93.15	Chesterton	94.45

JV Invite
First

varsity Gymnastics

Home		Opponent
103.6	LaPorte	97.35
Portage Pairs		Second
107.7	Hobart	98.3
108.5	Michigan City	85.2
108.7	Crown Point	94.4
109.3	Merrillville	96.3
Marion Invite		First
108.0	Lowell	99.4
110.5	Valparaiso	93.8
93.15	Chesterton	94.45

Dunland Athletic Conference
Second
Sectionals
Second
Regionals
Second



Front Row: Nikki Gass, Jessica Grant, Kim Dudek, Lindsay Easton, Jackie Frechette, Jaclyn Repay. **Second Row:** Nikki Floyd, Head Coach Cassie Riley, Ashley DeHaven, Tiffany Stewart, Monica Vega, Assistant Coach Rob Surber, Gia Fornari. **Back Row:** Stacey Weimer, Tina Fingerhoot, Amber Riley, Michelle Sparks, April Samuels, Piper VanSanten.

Junior Michelle Sparks practices her routine on the uneven bars. Sparks has been in gymnastics since her freshman year.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Gia Fornari and Michelle Sparks execute their Indian pride at the Valparaiso Sectional boys basketball game. The cheerleaders performed at all of the basketball games to help support the team.

Valentine Torres shows that hours of practice pays off at a halftime performance. The Pom Pons practiced twice a week to perfect their routines.

Junior Varsity Cheerleaders - Front Row: Leacia Circle, Jennifer Darnell, Mary Brown, Megan Stout. **Back Row**: Kelly McWilliams, Holly Blake, Elizabeth Bunker, Michelle Batista, Monica Essig.

Freshman Cheerleaders - Front Row: Robyn Karner, Erin Austgen, Dionne Gingerich, Mandi Bartok. **Back Row**: Piper Van Santen, Cyndi Cochran, Stacey Weimer, Jessica Wireman, Mrs. Jill Redmon

Pom Pons - Front Row: Gena Ortiz, Julie Castro, Valentine Torres, Jennifer Buergler, Tiffany Mendizabel, Kelly Fallon. **Back Row**: Miss Ginger Ingram, Kim Dudek, Amity McKiddy, Megan Gerkin, Amber McKiddy, Amber Hammond, Jessica Reid, Heather Andryuk, Chrissy Cunningham, Monica Vega.

hours of practice produces
Enthusiasm

Cheers, Pom Pons, and smiles are all a part of raising Indian spirit. Practicing twice a week, cheerleaders and poms strive to get their cheers louder and their kicks higher.

The cheerleading squad maintained Indian pride through another winning football season and again for basketball.

Junior Amber Riley said, "The thing I enjoy the most about being a cheerleader is supporting and cheering for such good teams. Our enthusiasm really helps to get the fans excited about the teams."

With the help of the lifters Indian spirit rose to a new height. Along with the cheerleaders, the lifters attended football and basketball games to support not only the cheerleaders but also the teams. Lifters are an added necessity to the cheer squads to help in making better and bigger stunts. Junior Brandon Miller said, "The thing I enjoy the most about being a lifter is the interaction with the school and cheerleaders and the responsibility of being a lifter."

Participating in the Homecoming parade, the spirit squads felt it was essential for raising school spirit and team morale.

"The homecoming parade was important to me because I think it helps to raise school spirit and it encourages students to get involved," Riley said.

The Cheerleaders and the Poms both attended week long summer camps to learn new routines and cheers they perform in the upcoming year. This past year the Poms qualified for the Universal Dance Association National Championships, but because their main focus is to promote school spirit the administration did not let them attend.

The Poms supported the basketball team by performing at the games during halftime with cheers of enthusiasm. The Pom Pon squad also performed for a benift held at Woodland Park for a girl named Emily Selter to raise money to help cover outstanding medical bills, due to Down syndrome, that her insurance company won't cover.

By Melissa Foreman

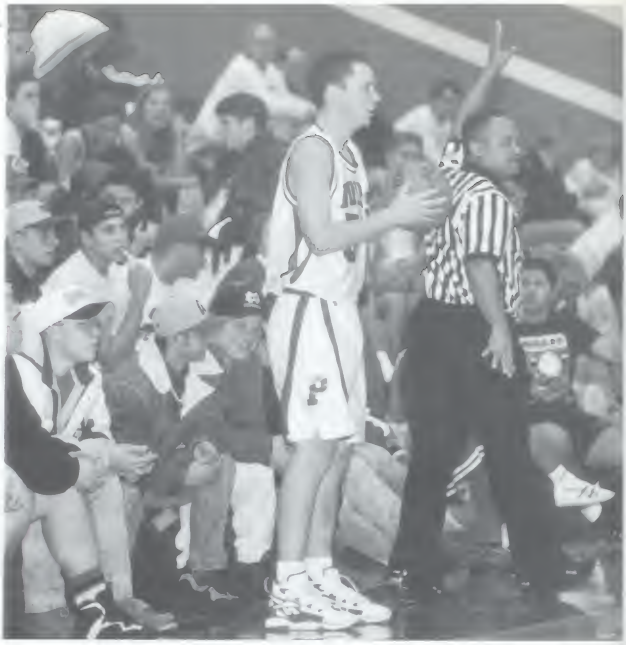
Varsity Cheerleaders - Front Row: Amber Riley, Alicia Smith, Gia Fornari, Jessica Mundell. **Back Row:** Windy Gilbert, Sydney Hodsden, Lani Kelly, Tina Fingerhoot, Lindsey Klisik, Brieana Lees.

Lifters - Front Row: Marty Costello, Brandon Miller, Johnny Lewis, James Espinosa. **Back Row:** Jeremy Lewis, Mike Forrest, Rick Morgan, Eligah Armes, Timothy Lewandowski.

Senior Mike Wilson prepares to return the ball into play. The varsity, as well as the junior varsity teams, based their offense and defense on team work.

varisty Basketball

Home		Opp
79	Munster	52
70	Lowell	58
59	Portage	47
61	Lake Central	38
72	Lake Station	42
66	Crown Point	58
42	Benton Central	49
64	McCutcheon	76
48	Michigan City	52
62	Hammond High	71
57	Hobart	55
64	LaPorte	68
71	Highland	64
56	Chesterton	50
55	Valparaiso	67
42	Merrillville	56
72	Elkhart Memorial	88
69	Hammond Morton	72
60	Hammond Noll	46
56	Lafayette Jefferson	88
	Sectionals	
28	Valparaiso	25
69	Morgan Twp.	45
67	Chesterton	61
	Regionals	
52	North Judson	49
58	LaPorte	52
	Semi-State	
77	Gary Wallace	94



shooting for the Stars

Most teams start out the season with some kind of goal in mind. The Boys' Varsity Basketball Team was no exception. They had a goal set and they were willing to work for it.

Varsity player junior Mike Wall said, "Its been a good season. We set a goal as a team to make Semi-State at Mackey Arena, and we accomplished that goal."

Varsity player junior Mike Pickering said, "We really accomplished something special. Not every team gets to go to Semi-State."

But, like many common aspirations, making it to Semi-State took a lot of work to accomplish. Wall said, "We practiced every day except Sunday for two hours."

The players weren't the only ones who had to work in order to bring the team to Semi-State. Pickering said, "The coaches prepared us for every single game we played."

Although the team did not beat Lew Wallace at the Semi-State level, they were content just to have made it through Sectionals. Varsity player Scott McDonald, a junior, said, "Going to Mackey Arena was the greatest part of the whole season."

By Mary Green

(Photo by Cheryl Banke)

During the Semi-state match against Gary Wallace, Athletic Trainer, Mr. Dan Merrill cleans a minor abrasion from senior Jason Hallenbeck's leg. Hallenbeck was one of the leading scorers on the Varsity team.

(Photo by Kristie Gilmore)

JV/Varsity Boys Basketball- Front Row: Michelle Hodges, Andy Drake, Marc Tarpley, Mike Pickering, Coach Jay Hodges, Coach Greg Fisher, Coach Marv Allison, Andy Berger, Scott McDonald, Nick Ladra, Kathy Ostrander. **Second Row:** Christina Hodges, Jim DeWitt, Mike Wall, Nat Henson, Jason Hallenbeck, Nick Shields, David Reynolds, Mike Wilson, Brandon Mowbray, Mike Martinez, Vance Carlin. **Back Row:** Adam Scott, George Murrow, Scott Wilson, Jordan DeHaven, Corey Schnarr, Tony Racich, John Bailey, Brian Freeman, Doug Samuel, Kevin Stout, Bob Richards.

Senior David Reynolds shoots from near the free-throw line, during a sectional game at Valparaiso. The basketball team won all of its Sectional games during the year.

Freshman player Scot Wilson drives toward the basket during a game vs. Highland. The fresman team lost to its opponent, 32-33.

Coach Craig Hodges gives the JV team a pep talk during halftime vs. Lake Station. This type of encouragement from the coaching staff led the team to a successful season.

working toward a Goal

The ball swishes into the net after being propelled by the seemingly effortless flick of a player's wrist. In the simplicity of that moment, it may not seem like a lot of work.

But being part of a team isn't as easy as some may think. It takes hours of practice to achieve that instance of perfection. Team members practiced every day after school, from 3 to 5 p.m. and sometimes even on Saturday mornings. "Practices got boring. There was too much running," junior Doug Samuel said.

Although practice was not their favorite way to spend their spare time, players did realize its importance. Sophomore Eric Reynolds said, "I didn't mind all the running, because I knew it would pay off."

Players believed that in addition to practice, other things helped them improve.

"We all improved a lot because of the coaches' help," Samuel said.

But the hard work paid off in the end.

"It was a good season. We worked together and did some real positive things," sophomore Brandon Mowbray said.

By Mary Green

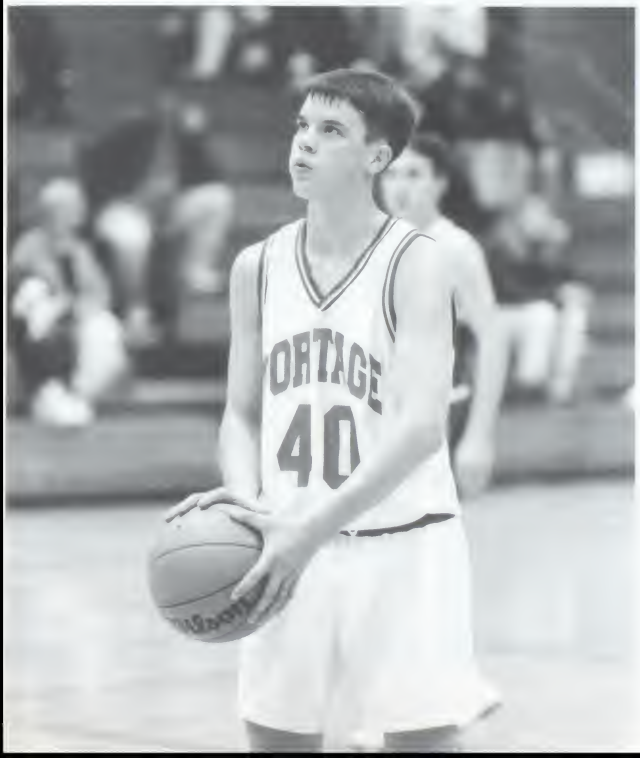
Freshmen Boys Basketball- Front Row: Roger O'Rourke, Ryan Wall, Mike Liesch, Tim Wilson, Jeff During, Guy Chavez, Jeff Wittorp. **Second Row:** Aaron Seibal, Audi Bailey, Ryan Fisher, Rick Rodriguez, Rick Fontanez, Mark Juszczak, David Costa, Pat McGlothlin. **Back Row:** Missy Zimmerman, Jeff Evans, Mike Kramer, Scot Wilson, George Murrow, Luke Foyle, Kevin Stout, Derlin Howe, Alex Torres.

freshmen Basketball *"A" team*

Home		Opp
36	Michigan City	61
46	Andrean	43
50	Marquette	35
37	Lowell	27
32	Highland	33
37	Lake Central	60
45	LaPorte	34
28	Munster	25
38	Chesterton	49
15	Valparaiso	50
29	Hobart	40
50	Kankakee Valley	37
34	Merrillville	41
44	Crown Point	45
52	Chesterton	44
36	Valparaiso	22
31	Boone Grove	35
35	Hammond Noll	37

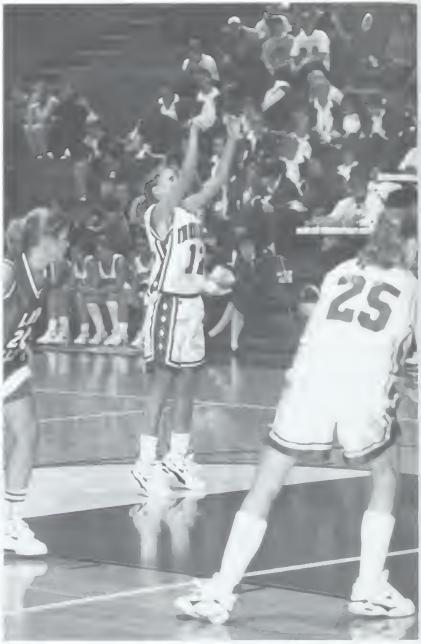
freshmen Basketball *"B" team*

Home		Opp
42	Hobart	29
35	Andrean	29
43	Lowell	16
50	Highland	46
22	Lake Central	59
48	LaPorte	45
40	Munster	22
28	Chesterton	31
24	Valparaiso	43
46	Kankakee	22
30	Valley	37
51	Merrillville	46
48	Chesterton	53
39	LaPorte	36
	Crown Point	



Freshman George Murrow focuses on the basket while preparing for a free-throw shot. Murrow was one of the key scorers for the freshman team.

Shooting from the free-throw line, junior Korey Reynolds releases the ball. Reynold's versatality on the court allows her to play either guard or forward.



Passing the ball to freshman Erin Jedlikowski, senior Christy Ramian avoids a Crown Point opponent. Numerous passing and shooting techniques were utilized in offensive strategy.

Concentrating on the rim, Junior Cyndi Hatala follows through with her shot. Hatala plays as both guard and forward.

Front Row: Mgr. Samantha Mahoney, Mary Mazurek, Mgr. Sarah Natalie **Row 2:** Cyndi Hatala, Cristina Chandler, Korey Reynolds, Chrisy Ramian, Heather Gish, Coach Turpa **Row 3:** Asst Coach Papalazarou, Erika Murrow, Erin Jedlikowski, Anke Naumann, Kelly Rich, Mgr James Espinoza

Sweating from anticipation, senior Erika Murrow struggles for the ball with a Crown Point opponent and freshman Erin Jedlikowski is ready to assist. Murrow lead the team in scoring as well as in rebounding.

girls' varsity

Basketball

Home		Opp
59	Highland	63
56	Andrean	55
45	Gavit	42
27	Chesterton	49
43	Crown Point	66
52	Kankakee Valley	54
43	Merrillville	52
30	East Chicago	32
42	Lafayette Harrison	58
61	Lawrence North	50
52	Bishop Noll	43
37	Hobart	45
46	Munster	35
51	Andrean	50
30	Valparaiso	56
45	Lake Station	27
51	Michigan City	50
43	Lake Central	56
51	LaPorte	54
32	Chesterton	42

girls' gain shot

Perspective

With her foot upon the free-throw line, she slowly dribbles the ball. She extends her arm as the ball rolls off the tips of her fingers. It hits the rim once ... twice ... *swish*.

With a record of 8-12, many girls felt their wins and losses were deceiving of the talent on the team.

Senior Erika Murrow said, "We only have two returners and most of the players are a lot younger in experience, but they have a lot of skill and potential."

Many of the girls play basketball for different reasons.

Murrow, who lead the Indians in scoring, rebounds, and assists, also went on to say, "Basketball keeps me in shape, I get to be with my friends and it gives me a grasp of the team concept. It taught me discipline and how to get along with a team or a group of people."

The girls worked hour after hour, before school and after school, doing the defensive plays and just drilling over and over to achieve perfection.

Erin Jedlikowski, the only freshman on the team, said, "We practiced every day; we practiced Saturday mornings for about two-and-one-half hours and we went over the plays one last time before the games."

By Derinda Smith

Preparing the girls for the play coaches Beth Hufford and Renee Turpa give the girls advice. This was Hufford's first year as both coach and teacher.

shooting for Perfection

Running across the gym, the junior varsity and freshman girls' basketball teams give it their best at practice. Practices like these are what helped make the season so successful.

The girls had many reasons for joining the team. "I always looked up the high school players and wanted to be that," freshman Elizabeth Bobb said.

Everyday after school the basketball team filed into the gym and warms up. After several hours of running, jumping, shooting and passing these girls get ready to go home. But once they leave the school, they don't leave practice. Many team members go home a practice on their own, whether it's alone or with a friend.

Although they are not required, many girls attend morning practice to improve their skills. Many of them feel that the practices have helped them to improve their game. "I've become a better shooter. I've been more competitive in my moves and getting to the basket," freshman Cassie Mateo said.

Before a game the girls each prepare for a meet in their own way. Some get something to eat or drink while others just listen to music or do stretches to psyche themselves up.

Coaches Beth Hufford and Renee Turpa spend many hours with the girls and prepare them for their games by going over plays and practicing moves.

Much of practice time is spent doing drills. These drills consist of shooting, passing and dribbling. The other part of practice is running.

By Missy Bedroya

Freshman Girls' Basketball - Front Row: Celina Mendoza, Stephanie Williams, Gretchen Circle, Patty Sulitz, Cindy Torres, Nikki Warwick. **Middle Row**: Manager Adam Guervitz, Julie Stevenson, Mellisa Fritz, Melissa Smith, Cassie Mateo, Melissa Parker, manager John Paskevitch. **Back Row**: Pam Smith, Tara Potts, Erin Harell, Elizabeth Bobb, Amanda Hopkins, Candace Crockett, Kelly Bowman, manager Becky Hall.

Under the net, freshman Mellisa Smith goes for the rebound. Smith also played basketball for Willowcreek her 7th and 8th grade year.

Shooting a freethrow, sophomore Stephanie Huffman attempts to score for the Lady Indians. Not only does Huffman play ball, but her and her sister Natalie sing "The Star Spangled Banner" before each game.

Jumping high, freshman Stephanie Williams realeases the ball for a shot. Willams helped lead the team to a winning season.

swimming up a Storm

Half asleep and still in their pajamas the boys' and girls' swim teams slowly arrive at school at 5:30 a.m. The boys and girls swim team started its day before sunrise. Then after a full day of school and another practice they go home at 6 p.m., and on the days that the team had meets, it did not go home until after 9 p.m.

Both teams had the chance to travel to State, and for the guys it meant finishing in eighth place, higher than it has ever placed before.

Breaking records became almost an everyday event for both teams. Seniors Tim Slamkowski and David Warren, and juniors Charlie Fruewirth and Nathan Mundt set new school records in the 200 freestyle relay, 400 freestyle relay, and the 200 medley relay. The foursome also set new records individually. Warren set a new record in the 200 individual medley relay, Slamkowski in the 50 freestlye and the 100 freestyle, while Mundt broke the 100 butterfly.

The boys weren't the only ones with a record breaking season. The girls' went on to break four new records. Senior Jenny Siminski, junior Amy Dominck, sophomore Katie Siminski and freshman Kym Ford set a new 200 medley relay record. But the record breaking did not stop there for the Siminski sisters. Jenny set new records in both the 50 Freestyle and 100 backstroke, while Katie broke the 100 breaststroke.

All this record breaking did not come without work. "We work out more that 20 hours a week," sophomore Rich Ostertag said. "I swim the 200 and 500 free so I had to swim alot of distance.

By Missy Bedroya

boys' Swimming

Home		Opp.
115	Merriville	71
121	LaPorte	65
123	Highland	63
120	Michigan City	65
131	Hobart	52
128	Crown Point	57
119	Lowell	67
78	Valparaiso	109
109	Chesterton	77
111	Rensselar Central	75
121	Gavit	58

Dac
Second

Sectional
Third

State
Eighth

girls' Swimming

Munster Classic
First

Valparaiso Relays
Second

LaPorte Diving Invite
Second

DAC
Fifth

Sectionals
Fourth

Before a meet aganist LaPorte, junior Charlie Freuwirth warms up his buterfly. Fruehwirth holds records in the 200 medely relay, 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Before a meet senior Katy Ostertag practiced her sidestroke. Ostertag has been swimming competitively since she was 9 years old.

At practice, senior Jim Smith attempts a back dive. Smith started diving his senior year.

Boys Swim - **Front Row:** Ray Peda, Rob Berquist, Charlie Freuwirth, Jon Harbaugh, Dan Paniaguas, Chris Mikitis, Sergey Chernov, Adam Hatten. **Middle Row:** Tim Bingham, Dave Warren, George Ferguson, Chris Smolnicky, Jim Smith, Norm Ford, Nathan Mundt. **Back Row:** Mike Nemeth, Ben Hoffman, Ryan VanAuken, Chris Rogers, Rich Ostertag, Bill Hoffman, Chad Franks.

Girls' Swim - **Front Row:** Manager Amanda Siroky, Jessica Grant, Tiffany Stewart, Helana Golarz, Beth Klakowski, Jennifer Lawarnce, Erin Whiting,Stephanie Niemchiwitez, Manager Amanda Szentensy. **Second Row:** Corrine Cleland, Lindsay Easton, Carrie Horne, Amy Dominick, Nikki Kizer, Nichole Startup, Amy Nelson. **Third Row:** Sojna Soto, Dana Rogers, Dawn Butterfield, Natalie Huffman, Kim Ford, Norma Addison, Brandi Rootkie. **Back Row:** Coach Mike Lipinski, Theresa Hazzard, Kristen Levan, Katie Siminski, Krissy Manion, Abbey Kay, Jenny Simniski, Katy Ostertag, Michelle Vaught.

In mid dive, freshman Tiffany Stewart practices her front somersault. Stewart was also on the gymnastics and track team.

Senior Christie Lovings catches the ball at first base to make an out against Valparaiso early in the season. The Indians went on to win the game by one point, 3-2.

Freshman Wendy Cannon hurls another ball into the unsuspecting path of the batter. The Indians ended their season with a 27-0 record and advanced to the Semi-State level.

Varsity Softball - Front Row: Wendy Cannon, Crystal Cannon, Katie Kawiecki, Theresa Munoz, Mary Mazurek, Heather Gapinski, Korey Reynolds, Sarah Natalie. **Back Row:** Kelly Rich, Shawna Carter, Christie Lovings, Angela McWhirter, Missy Fekete, Kelly McAllister, Amber Hardin, Cyndi Hatala.

Junior Varsity Softball - Front Row: Kristin King, Erin Johnston, Nicole Hall, Trisha Richart, Emily Bauer, Kristy Boggs, Christi Nystrom, Tara Potts. **Back Row:** Denise Carpenter, Jenny Fekete, Nicole Lewis, Kelly Buhman, Sara Fields, Kelly Johnston, Kelly Smith, Kelly Ramian.

Senior Christie Lovings stands in position at first base waiting for the next play. The Indians practiced after school to improve their skills on the field.

sliding into victory

It's a cool Spring afternoon. With the sharp crack of a bat, a ball soars through the air and the Indians are on their way to winning another game.

The softball teams put in hours of after school practice to perfect their batting, fielding and catching, to compose a successful team.

"To make a the team successful it takes everyone to get along well, work hard at every practice, and never get down on yourself or teammates," sophomore Kelly Rich said.

Agreeing with Rich senior Missy Fekete said, "A successful team takes working together and lots of hard work."

Not only did practice produce a successful team but it also produces good players.

"Dedication and a love for the game are the key factors in determining a good softball player," senior Kelly McAllister said.

"It takes a lot of practice with and without your team. It takes a good heart and most of all determination to be the best for your team and yourself," Rich said.

With a 27-0 record and Regional title the softball team proved that dedication and hard work could produce a successful team.

By Melissa Foreman

Junior Cyndi Harala looks as the ball flies by into the glove of a Valparaiso catcher. The Indians advanced on to capture the Sectional and Regional titles.

varsity softball

Home		Opp.
12	Andrean	0
14	Michigan City	1
6	Valparaiso	0
11	Lafayette Harrison	1
3	Merrillville	1
3	Chesterton	0
6	Hobart	2
11	Crown Point	0
8	Lowell	3
9	LaPorte	2
10	Michigan City	0
11	Marquette	5
3	Valparaiso	2
7	Merrillville	0
10	Chesterton	0
1	Lake Central	0
12	Hobart	7
5	Griffith	0
3	Crown Point	1
10	LaPorte	0
5	Munster	1
1	Boone Grove	0
11	Hobart	4
7	Gary Roosevelt	0
5	Wheeler	3
2	Boone Grove	1
4	Michigan City	3

Sectional
First

Regional
First

Junior Yvette Menendez follows through with her backhand at a match. Menendez was switched back and forth from No. 1 doubles to No. 2 doubles on JV throughout the season.

Girls Varsity Tennis - Front Row: Melissa Mongoven, Kim Jakob, Kim Spoa. Back Row: Liz Cattani, Sarah Murphy, Erika Murrow, Jessica Hufford, Annette Munoz.

Girls Junior Varsity Tennis - Front Row: Katy Ballas, Kathy Rea, Stephanie Iwan. Second Row: Erika Moreno, Sarah Kruegar, Jenny Riffle, Danielle Pickart, Candace Weinman, Leslie Coello. Row Three: Mindy Hansell, Dana Tarin, Rachel Fink, Dionne Gingerich, Nina Weich, Yvette Menendez, Jen Urchick, Missy Hansell. Back Row: Coach Bill Paraznik, Courtney Wallace, Megan Cleary, Natalie Kirincic, Michelle Harmon, Jessica Barniville, Laura Owen, Abby Kay.

Going for a forehand, senior Jessica Hufford slices the ball. Hufford, along with senior Erika Murrow, traveled to Regionals to compete at No. 1 doubles.

a smashing Return

The sun glares off the green and white court. She awaits the force of the oncoming ball against her racket. She gets in set position as the ball hits within the square of the service area. With full power, she throws her weight into the racket. The ball soars down the line for the point.

The girls' tennis team had a winning season, completing it with a 8-7 record. Sophomore Stefanie Iwan said, "I think we had a pretty good season. We made it past our goal which was 500, [wins in Coach Rich Mason's career], and had a winning season, which was good."

Some of the players thought the team, as well as themselves, had improved greatly.

Junior Kim Spoa said, "I did the best that I could do and gave it my all. I've done a lot of practice to get where I am and I am happy with it."

By Derinda Smith

Senior Erika Murrow gets in set position for the oncoming serve. Murrow served as co-captain of the team with senior Jessica Hufford.

Senior Christina Timmons watches the ball as she follows through on her swing. Timmons was named "most valuable," as well as "best putter."

Junior Sonja Sturges looks toward the green, following the progress of the ball. Golfers practiced after school and during the summer to prepare for matches.

Girls' Golf - Front Row: Kathy Ostrander, Danielle Carpenter, Cheryl Guzikowski, Rebecca Reibly, Lisa Morrison. **Back Row:** Sonja Sturges, Erin Harrell, Erin Jedlikowski, Liz Negron, Mystie Oatsvall, Christina Timmons.

Boys' Golf - Front Row: Mike Kramer, Jason Niloff, Mike Martinez, Andrew Elderkin, Joe Hall, Rick Morgan, Nick Ladra, Phil Frechette. **Back Row:** Kris Komenda, Coach Greg Fisher, Ryan Fisher, Aaron Siebal, Todd Kobitz, Mike Sanchez, Jim Selvage, Adam Scott.

swinging for Success

Fore! The ball whizzes over the grass and lands on the green just a few inches from the hole. It's not a sunny afternoon on the golf course, it's after-school practice.

There was no homecoming, pep rallies or hallway decorations for the golf team but many found a higher purpose in the sport.

Junior Mystie Oatsvall said, "It's really fun. The matches are always fun whether we win or lose."

Freshman Jim Crowley said, "I just wanted to play competitively."

Like any other sport, golf required a lot of hard work and practice.

"In the summer we practice from 9 a.m. to whenever. When school's in, we practice after school until it gets dark," Oatsvall said.

Members of the golf team considered it a learning experience, as well as good practice.

Crowley said, "I've become a better golfer. The other guys on the team really help you out so you can improve."

Teamwork seemed to be a major theme for the team.

"The team didn't win as many matches as we would have liked to, but we all tried this year and we've all improved," Crowley said.

By Elizabeth Verbich

girls' varsity Golf

Home		Opp
225	Marquette	201
215	Kankakee Valley	227
205	Munster	190
212	Valparaiso	170
197	Lake Central	193
197	Hanover Central	218
197	Crown Point	207
212	LaPorte	220
211	Michigan City	213
195	Chesterton	226
197	Lowell	233
188	Merrillville	196.

boys' varsity Golf

Home		Opp.
192	Andrean/	160
	Kankakee Valley	176
180	Boone Grove	201
176	Highland	171
177	Hanover Central/	181
	Kankakee Valley/	164
	Wheeler	208
161	LaPorte/	166
	Merrillville	175
190	Michigan City	169
170	Valparaiso/	152
	Crown Point	167
171	Chesterton/	157
	Michigan City	169
181	Crown Point/	160
	Hobart	163
165	Merrillville	178

boys' junior varsity Golf

Home		Opp.
212	Kankakee Valley/	209
	Andrean	179
191	Boone Grove	258
208	Highland	210
202	Hanover/	191
	Wheeler/	230
	Kankakee Valley	203
192	LaPorte/	181
	Merrillville	188
209	Michigan City	197
193	Valparaiso/	173
	Crown Point	174
199	Chesterton/	210
	Michigan City	187
204	Crown Point/	182
	Hobart	205
200	Merrillville	197
195	LaPorte/	178
	Valparaiso	175

Junior Liz Negron concentrates on a putt. Like many of the golfers, Negron lettered in golf. Lettering was acheived through service to the team, which earned a specific amount of points.

varsity Baseball

Home		Opp.
7	Lake Station	3
3	Munster	1
1	Kankakee Valley	4
4	Michigan City	3
7	Lake Central	9
9	Valparaiso	19
7	Boone Grove	4
11	Boone Grove	0
1	Merrillville	6
3	Chesterton	2
1	Hobart	5
3	Crown Point	1
3	LaPorte	7
4	Gavit	5
6	Valparaiso	4
10	Merrillville	8
7	Michigan City	1
10	Chesterton	6
2	Crown Point	5
10	Hobart	3
3	LaPorte	9
8	Hammond High	7
6	Highland	12
10	Washington Twp.	0
5	Valparaiso	3
0	Chesterton	3

Senior Jeremy DeHaven waits for the pitch at a practice. Varsity baseball held practiced every day of the week except Sunday.

hitting for a home run

A cracking sound splits the air as the baseball soars through the air to land at the back of the field. The outfielders scramble to gain control of the ball, while the batter runs around the diamond, touching each base with his foot as he passes. This game, known as America's favorite pasttime, is played all over the country, from major leagues, to little league. And Portage is no exception to that rule.

But getting the team to work this well together wasn't as easy as it might seem. First it took practice. Junior Nicholas Rajski said "We practiced every day except for Sunday."

Making the team connect this well also required teamwork. Rajski said, "At times we did have our differences, but most of the time everyone got along just fine."

But team members believed that they had worked out their problems by the end of the year. Junior Tim Pirowski said, "What really made this year a great year was hanging out with all my friends on the team."

Rajski thought that it was a good year too. Rajski said, "My favorite part of this year was being able to play on the best team I'll ever play on in my whole life."

Mary Green

Senior Omar Mendez waits for junior Pete Shaw to pitch the ball, so he can run to the next base during a practice game. The varsity baseball team had many practice games during the season.

Senior Tom Bonez watches as the ball whizzes past his feet, too low to be in the strike zone. A few times during the season a batter was rewarded first base, due to four balls being thrown out of the strike zone.

reaching for the Run

Teamwork, home runs and catching fly balls were all part of being a member of the junior varsity and freshman baseball teams.

The team was taught some qualities to help them through the rest of their lives.

Sophomore Kris Replin said, "I learned team unity this season."

Sophomore Eric Erway said, "I was taught experience through practice."

The junior varsity team had many significant plays and many goals to be achieved.

Erway said, " When our team hit three home runs during one game [was significant this season].

"When we finished first in half season, one game behind Valparaiso and then coming back to beat them on our home field and to beat Penn," Replin said, "I had to prove to myself and my family members that I could make the team."

The junior varsity and freshman baseball teams finished their season with achieved goals and with the experience of team unity.

By Stacy Lemley

freshman Baseball

Home		Opponent
11	Noll	6
5	Andrean	6
9	Merrillville	1
6	Highland	4
4	Highland	3
6	Chesterton	5
14	Valparaiso	4
10	Lowell	0
7	E.C. Central	11
3	Chesterton	5
8	Crown Point	7
1	Wheeler J.V.	3
8	Hebron	0
11	Griffith	1
4	Valparaiso	3
4	Merrillville	6

Freshman Luke Fogle waits for the ball to reach the mound as he swings the bat. The freshman team had practice after school throughout the season.

Sophomore Jimmy Dewitt strikes the ball, trying for a home run during his game. The team learned many values throughout the season.

Pitching is a main element at the junior varsity level. Although fielding skills are importaint, the team with the better pitcher usually wins. Taking a few warm up pitches enables the pitchers arm to stay loose.

Freshman Baseball, Front Row: Chris Rummel, Mike Ramian, Kevin McGuffey, Kevin Goad, Andrew Bradbury, Mike Lenard. **Back Row:** Mike Bornsteen, Mark McKim, Kris Lafoy, Luke Fogle, Kevin Stout, Jeff Evans, Nick Wayne, Coach Mark Marvin.

running to Victory

boys' track

Home		Opp.
82	Merrillville	50
90	Crown Point/	32
	LaPorte	35
66	Michigan City/	67
	Chesterton	34
89	Valparaiso/	63
	Hobart	15

Portage Relays
First
9/10 Viking Invitational
First
DAC
First
Sectionals
Second
Regionals
First
State
Fifth

As they cleaned out their track lockers, their minds drifted back to all that they accomplished. It was a year of change, improvement and hard work.

How appropriate for the boys' track team to pick the slogan "Faster ... Higher ... Farther," because that is exactly what it did.

The team went out and did things that it has never done before. It all started by winning the second DAC title.

After that, they went on and conquered Portage's first Regional title ever for Portage. Next up on its rampage, the boys' sent more State qualifiers than ever before to the State meet in Indianapolis. While they were there they scored more points than they had ever scored before at the State meet and finished fifth.

State qualifiers included: junior Tom Taylor in the 1600, senior Nick Munoz in the 3200, senior Chris Spurrier for shotput, senior Ryan Kegley for pole vaulting and senior Mike Foley for the 800.

The State meet may have ended the season for many teams, but not for Kegley and Spurrier. Kegley and Spurrier traveled to the Mid-West Meet of Champions.

What made the season so enjoyable for many of the guys were the coaches. "Coach Tom Milakovic [the shotput coach] was funny and helpful," sophomore Tom Johnson said.

Junior Scott Misner said hard work was the key to the team's success. The team spent countless hours running, jumping and throwing.

After the season was over, there was only two things left to do: pass out the awards and go to State. The All-State Athlete awards went to Spurrier an Kegley. Spurrier also received the MVP Field Event award. The MVP runner award went to senior Jason Skolak. Munoz received the Most Improved Runner award. The Most Improved Field Event award went to junior Alex Curiel, and the Mental Attitude award was given to senior Adam Trinks.

After placing fifth at the State meet, Coach John Kappes said, "It was a fantastic way to end the season. It was a neat thing. We stumbled a little bit. At times it didn't seem that we would pull it out. To finish at fifth place was a big deal. It was very satisfying."

By Missy Bedroya

With shotput in hand, senior Chris Spurrier concentrates on his event. Spurrier travled to State for the shotput competition.

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Right before releasing the ball, junior Scott Misner gathers his strength. The team finished the season, 9-1.

Boys' Track - **Front Row**: Alex Torres, Tom Modesto, Aaron Branham, Tom Taylor, Tim Galati, Nick Munoz, Ryan Kegley, Jeff McKee, Steve Lugo, Scott Curran, John Butala, David Meyer, David Alonzo. **Second Row**: Joe Falck, Sean Hannon, Jon Harbaugh, Jason Skolak, Mike Foley, Ruben Perez, Chris Westerkamp, Jeff Zeah, Rick Rodriquez, Johnny Lewis, Bryan Lucas, Adam Trinks, Sam Casko, Justin Sawochka, Tom Johnson. **Third Row**: Steve Renner, Jeff Fain, Jeremy Lewis, Chris Spurrier, Scott Misner, Mike Griffith, Joe Ring, Alex Curier, Brian Kral, Ryan Gabey, Tim Mulvihill, Eric Reynolds, Tony Cimbalijevich, Chris Hodges. **Fourth Row**: Rich Mayerik, Josh Bluk, Aaron Fletcher, Joe Paunika, Dylan Hinton, Rick Fontnez, Kevin Kosovich, Brad Green, Chris Smolnicky, Tom Bialata, Chris Pauley. **Back Row**: Coach John Kappes, Assistant Coach Tom Milakovic, Assistant Coach Bill Wilke, Assistant Coach Rich Lowe, Assistant Coach Mark Fisher, Audie Bailey.

(Photo By Angel Rodriguez)

Before a Sectionals meet, junior Jeremy Lewis begins his warm-up. Lewis not only ran track, but also played varsity football.

girls' track

Home		Opp.
63	Merrillville	60
73	Crown Point/	54
	LaPorte	29
35	Michigan City/	85
	Chesterton	36
54	Valparaiso/	78
	Hobart	15

Portage Relays
Second
Lew Wallace Invite
Fourth
Highland Invite
Fifth
9/10 Rensselaer Invite
First
DAC
Third
Sectionals
Second
Regionals
Sixth

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke

About to release the shotput, freshman Becky Hall gives it her all. Hall had also participated previously on the track team at Willowcreek.

About to land, junior Joy Krejci focuses her attention on her jump. Krejci also ran and helped the 4x100 relay team set a new school record of 51.27 seconds.

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke

running for
Excitement

While waiting for the gunshot to ring out, many thoughts run through their heads. Thoughts such as starts, speed, strides and their opponents. These mixed together gave the girls' track team the energy to tear up the track.

Once again the girls pulled together and came up with a winning season. At the end of their regular season they finished with a 4-3 record. But the winning did not stop there. The team ran its way to Sectionals where a second place finish sent it on its way to Regionals. Finally at Regionals the team left with heads held high after placing sixth in the competition.

Besides winning, the team broke two records and tied a previous one. Juniors Michelle Lilly, Joy Krejci, Becky Easton, and freshman Jawanza Williams set a new record of 51.27 in the 4 x 100 relay. While their teammates were taking the 4 x 100, freshmen Nikki Warwick, Candace Crockett, junior Dollie Boyle, and sophomore Natalie Fornari broke the 4 x 800 with a new time of 10:03. But Natalie wasn't the only Fornari setting records, older sister senior Gia Fornari tied the old record for the high jump with a height of 5'4".

For several months the track team was outside running, through the sun, rain, snow and sleet. And on the rare occasions that they could not run outside, the girls ran inside.

For many girls, this year was spent improving their skills. "I improved my personal times," sophomore Michelle Batista said. Making friends was one reason that girls joined the team. "It is an easy way to make friends," freshman Becky Hall said.

By Missy Bedroya

(Photo by Rebekah Pelke)

Girls' Track - Front Row: Jawanza Williams, Marcy Greer, Nikki Warwick, Dollie Boyle, Jill Kozrowski, Gretchen Circle, Becky Easton. **Second Row:** Monica Essig, Sarah Johnson, Cheryl Flach, Beth Munoz, Katie Wampler, Jackie Frechette, Gia Fornari, Elise Grace, Tracy Bretts. **Third Row:** Heather Shoop, Elizabeth Bunker, Amanda Palmater, April Samuels, Heather Kilgore, Jenine Ibrahims, Stephanie Williams, Kim Ford. **Fourth Row:** Candace Crockett, Michelle Sparks, Lindsay Easton, Jessica Graut, Kathy Ostrander, Katie Siminski, Tessie Frechette, Natalie Fornari. **Fifth Row:** Michelle Batista, Cassie Mateo, Piper VanSanten, Rachel Jaminson, Courtney Simmons, Erin Harrell, Becky Hall, Jennifer Christan, Melissa Smith. **Back Row:** Rebekah Pelke, Erin Jedlikowski, Elizabeth Bobb, Michelle Lilly, Erica Radic, Joy Krejci, Megan Gerkin.

Ahead of her opponent, junior Dollie Boyle heads for the finish line. Boyle helped lead the 4 x 800 relay team to a new school record of 10:03.

Money Connection

212 - 234 Ads

(Photo by William Busch)

Working at the Student Credit Union just beside the bookstore, seniors Karl Cheng and Mary Brown accept a transaction with a smile. Mr. Mike Lemond is the sponsor of the union and the slogan is "For Students By Students."

IT'S *Well* Connected

(Photo by Angel Rodriguez)

Working as a Play Ranger for the South Haven McDonald's, sophomore Missy Lowe cleans off a table. McDonald's hired more people this year after the remodeling and opening of the Ronald's Play Place.

With a picture perfect pose at the Christmas dance, junior Tim Green and his Merrillville date, Jenna Cunningham, dance in the Commons.

Portage Tire & Auto Service

Firestone

(Photo by Bill Busch)

Sophomore Josh Kalmar and junior Scott Hall display performance tires. Portage Tire & Auto Service does not just sell tires, but also performs service for your tires. The personnel at Portage Tire & Auto Service are very helpful, if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

3520 Scottsdale
Portage, Ind.
46368

(219) 762 - 0405

(Photo by Bill Busch)

For extra money, senior Brett Baker works at Save More Foods as a cashier. Not only are there groceries, but Save More Foods also offers a wide variety of convenience items, such as check cashing, postal pickup and film processing.

Resting and relaxing in a hot tub, junior Josh Kalmar tests one of the many luxuries at Waterway Pool and Patio. During the winter months, Waterway also sells Christmas items.

(Photo by Bill Busch)

(Photo by Bill Busch)

(Photo By Bill Busch)

Freshman Joe Cauley sits and enjoys his McChicken at McDonald's. McDonald's is known for serving more than 1 billion people.

METRO METALS

communications data

Metro Metals Corporation
6600 U.S. Highway 12
Portage, Indiana 46383
219-787-8100

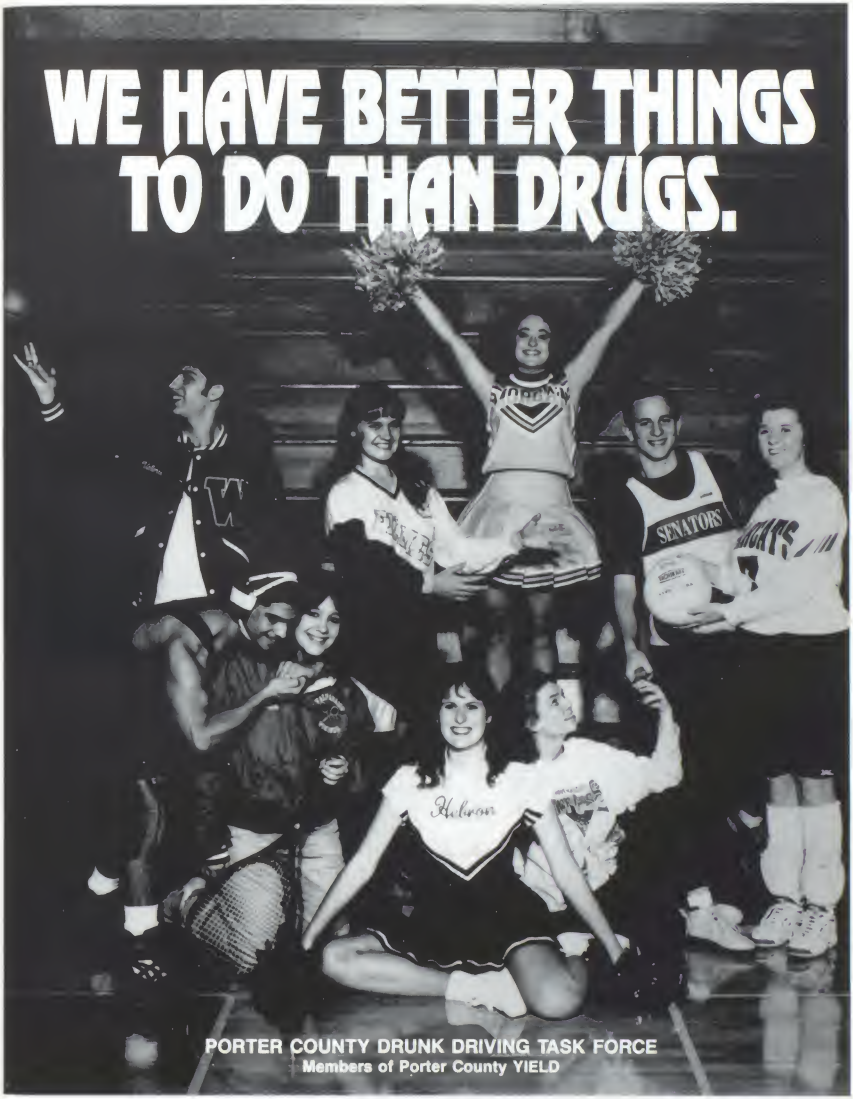
Metro Metals Corporation
760 Braddock Avenue
E. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15112
412-825-0800

Fax Numbers:

Sales 219-787-8446 *Purchasing 219-787-8137* *Receiving 219-787-8670* *Shipping 219-787-8459*

M.I.S./Accounting
219-787-9305

E. Pittsburgh Branch
412-829-2466


WE HAVE BETTER THINGS
TO DO THAN DRUGS.
SENATORS
Hebron
PORTER COUNTY DRUNK DRIVING TASK FORCE
Members of Porter County YIELD

State Farm Insurance

Grudovich/Nygra
6281 Central Avenue
Portage, Ind. 46368

(Photo by Bill Busch)

Taking a break from filling out applications for life insurance, agent Bernie Nygra will help with any form of insurance you need.

(Photo by Bill Busch)

Filing through claims from customers, agent Tamara Fenters sits at her desk while eager to help you find the right insurance.

(Photo by Bill Busch)

Agent Barbara Grudovich looks over one of the many forms of insurance that State Farm can help you with. The agency has several types of coverage, including fire, auto and life insurance.

STATE FARM
Auto
Life
Fire
INSURANCE ®

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.

a A a

b B b

c C c

d D d

e E e

f F f

g G g

h H h

i I i

j J j

k K k

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IT'S *All* Connected

"It's All Connected," a phrase that was used loosely, but with different definitions. Many aspects of school connected together, such as the way that the Business Professionals of America helped the football team by selling merchandise at their home games. Even in some classes, such as leadership, publications and art, connections were made when all walks of life came together to accomplish a common goal.

The newly formed Multicultural club helped to connect a variety of cultures by developing a student-exchange program between schools around the area. The installation of the Internet connected students with an immeasurable amount of available knowledge.

Although a certain physical connection was lost, the memories of Sarah Paulsen, Joyce Null and those involved in the Beta Steel accident, still lingered in the minds of those people whom they touched. As ironic as it was, the U.N.I.T.Y. club, which promoted an inner bond between human beings, closed court and disconnected itself from the school.

After it's all said and done, "It's All Connected" was a theme hard to prove, but in the end everything did connect.

(Photo courtesy of Mr. Bill Wilke)

Senior Jeremy Barker begins the search in a game called "Fish Food." Fifth graders from Saylor Elementary School participated in "Camp Aquatica."

(Photo by Cheryl Banke)

During Youth Government Day, elected students are given a chance to experience actual governmental procedures first hand. Senior Valentine Torres was chosen to serve on the council.

Senior foreign exchange student, Anke Nauman releases the ball in a varsity basketball game. Foreign exchange students have become more involved in organizations such as basketball, track, poms, and science club.

IT'S *all* Connected

Before their sectional game, the girls' soccer team put any differences aside and connect to scream their cheer for victory. The girls said the same cheer before each game to get their minds into it and to boost their fans' spirits.

Staff List

Editor in chief	*Jennifer Buergler*
Assistant Editors	*Alicia Balazs*
	Joe Durk
Photo Editor	*Ben Strupeck*
Student Life Editor	*Derinda Smith*
Academic Editor	*Mary Green*
Sports Editor	*Missy Bedroya*
Organizations Editor	*Jason Sturgeon*
Album Editor	*Christina Kostelnik*
Senior Editor	*Stacy Lemley*
Junior Editor	*Elizabeth Verbich*
Sophomore Editor	*Melissa Foreman*
Freshman Editor	*Kathy Rea*
Photographers	*William Busch*
	Kristie Gilmore
	Samantha Ortman
	Rebekah Pelke
	Angel Rodriquez
Art Editor	*Barry Wilson*

Colophon

The 1996 Legend was produced during one class period and afterschool.

With Mr. Mike Hackleman serving as sales representative and Ms. Yvette Freeman as our plant consultant, the 1996 Legend was printed by Jostens in State College, Pa.

The book, which contained 248 pages, was produced entirely on IBM computers using the Yeartech program. The 1,600 books that were ordered were printed on 80 lb. gloss paper. The cover was designed with the aid of a Jostens artist.

All body copy was set in 12 pt. AGaramond, while all captions were set in 8 pt. AGaramond. Headlines in the student life section were 48 pt. New Century Schoolbook, 36 pt. and 72 pt. Zapf Chancery and Barameno Regular, respectively and album's headlines were 60 pt. AGaramond. The headlines in organizations were 48 - 60 pt. Palatino and academic's headlines were 60 pt. AGaramond. All bylines were in 12 pt. AGaramond bold.

As the photographing company, Prestige Portraits out of Indianapolis, Ind., took all album pictures and various sports pictures. Most other pictures were taken by student photograpghers and developed in the publication's darkroom.

The book was distributed in the fall of 1996. At registration, the book sold for $18 and was raised to $28 at the end of the year.

Special thanks Mr. John Broome and Mrs. Debra Heitman for all their help throughout the year.

A very warm and special thanks to Miss Lori Harris for all her help through her first year.